



K9Grass Installation Guidelines

Process for installing over aggregate (stone) base

K9Grass®

K9Grass is a truly unique product that requires an installation process just as unique. The product is best installed by authorized ForeverLawn dealers and installers. Here is a brief summary of the installation process. These guidelines are used for reference and consistency.

Critical Tools:

Base Work

- Power circular saw for cutting perimeter boards.
- Power drill for drilling holes in boards and concrete if necessary.
- Concrete drill bit (appropriate size to match anchor if going into concrete).
- Drill bit to center drill holes in boards if using rebar to anchor to ground.
- Sledge or mini sledge hammer to pound rebar if using rebar.
- Deck screws for tying boards together if needed.
- Shovels and wheel barrow for digging/moving the gravel into the area.
- Landscape rakes (24" to 36" wide) for spreading and leveling the gravel.
- Garden hose with nozzle for wetting the stone.
- Vibratory plate tamper for compacting the stone.
- Hand tamper (10" x 10" or larger) for compacting edges and hard to reach places.

Cutting/Installation of Grass

- Utility knife with many blades (change blades frequently when cutting the grass).
- Tape measure.
- Sharpie marker (Sharpie Pro) for marking the back of grass for where to cut.
- Pneumatic staple gun.
- Air compressor and hose.
- Fiber seam tape and specialty turf glue.
- 1/4" to 5/32" notched trowel.
- Mixer bit for mixing glue if using 2-part.

Clean Up

- Blower.
- Push broom.
- Dust pan.

Critical Supplies:

- K9Grass.
- Reinforced fiber seam tape designed for turf.
- Specialty turf adhesive (Mapei 2-part is preferred).
- Plastic perimeter boards.
- Rebar typically 1/2" that are 18" to 24" in length if using rebar to secure boards.
- Concrete anchor screws or expanding concrete anchors if attaching boards to concrete.
- Gravel (crushed stone)– should be angular, compactable, and drainable.
- Stainless steel narrow crown staples (1 inch in length).
- Garbage bags.



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Let's start by taking a high-level look at the whole process. Seeing the big picture of what is being accomplished will make the detailed steps more understandable.

When installing K9Grass, the area must first be cleared. We are not addressing much about that step here. Once the area is cleared, we need to define the entire perimeter of the area and get the plastic boards installed. The plastic board (typically a 2' x 4') will be installed on edge, not lying flat.

Once the boards are installed, gravel will be brought into the area. The gravel should be spread level just a little higher than the top of the boards, as the gravel will settle on compaction. Once it is completely spread to desired surface contour, the gravel should be wetted with a hose and then compacted with a vibratory plate tamper. If the base settles too much, more gravel should be added, and the process repeated.

Upon completion of the base, the grass should be brought into the area and rolled out. The excess material needs to be removed from edges that will be seamed together. The grass should be laid out like it will be installed, seams lined up, and then the long edges of the grass should be cut to fit. We typically like to secure the edges of one of the two pieces of grass being seamed. Once the grass is properly trimmed, then anchored in key areas, the seam should be put together and the adjacent piece secured. Repeat as necessary if there are multiple seams.

After the seaming is done, then any remaining unanchored areas should be stapled. The grass should be cleaned up with a blower. If there is dirt or debris on the grass or surrounding areas, use a hose to rinse it off. With that as the backdrop, let's take a closer look at many of these processes.

Define the Area

Make sure you know the area where the K9Grass is going, and that the amount of turf you have will fit the area. Measure, and re-measure the area. Then, using landscape marking paint, draw the area that will be installed.

Ground Clearing

Clear the area of sod, stone, mulch, organic debris, etc. down to a consistent 3" to 4" below desired finish level of the K9Grass. Spraying roots with weed killer may help prevent regrowth in some areas (this is when you would do that if so desired). The use of a weed fabric is not recommended as it may soak up and absorb urine.

Typically, the soil (sub-base) will percolate liquids. If the area has a problem with standing water or excessive wetness, it may require more of the soil/base to be removed and/or more (larger) gravel brought in. If there is a perceived issue with the current drainage of the area, it is recommended that some type of drainage system be installed to pull the water or liquids out of the area. Perforated drainpipes, and/or other drainage solutions can be installed at the sub-base level.



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Perimeter Board Installation

Plastic perimeter boards are used to define the perimeter of the area. The K9Grass will be secured to the boards. Plastic boards (2" x 4") are recommended as they resist degradation and are non-absorbent. A gap of 1/4" is left between the ends of the boards to allow for expansion.

The top of the boards should be set to the level where you want the backing of the grass to be. With K9Grass, this is typically 1/2" below the surrounding area. For example, if going against a sidewalk, the top of the board should be 1/2" below the edge of the sidewalk when installed.

When the boards are installed adjacent to concrete (wall, house footer, sidewalk, driveway, etc.), use concrete screws or wedge anchor bolts to secure the boards to the concrete. Drill through the board into the concrete, then anchor. In some cases, if required, the perimeter boards can be reduced to a size of 2" x 2" when anchoring to concrete. If up against an edge (such as a fence) that can be attached to, but isn't concrete, just screw the boards in with deck screws.

When the boards are not being attached to something, we call that free standing. Free standing boards should have holes center drilled through the board tall ways, as the board will be standing on the 2" edge. These holes are typically spaced every 2'. Rebar should then be pounded through the hole (the holes should be slightly smaller than the rebar so the fit is tight, not loose) into the base beneath. Make sure to counter sink the rebar so the metal is not sticking out of the board on top.

Gravel Base (Aggregate)

The type of stone to use will vary based on area or region. Limestone, granite, and basalt have all been used successfully. More important than the size or mix of the stone. The stone has to be an angular stone (aggregate), the size should be about 3/8" to a max of 1/2", unless doing multiple layers. When doing multiple layers, a base of larger stone can be used, and then cap it with 1" to 2" of the 3/8" stone.

When compacted, the base needs to be porous and firm. Having some smaller particulate in the stone to help the base compact is good. However, it is important that there isn't too much smaller particulate that would cause the base to lock-up and not drain. Base material should never be dirty—that is having dirt or mud in it. We want to achieve a good base that will be firm, but still drain well.

Once the stone is placed in the area, it needs to be raked and leveled. This is very important, as the grass will reveal the base, not hide it. Make sure the area has the desired contour and is smooth. When satisfied with the layout of the stone, the area should be wetted, and then tamped to 90% - 95% compaction using a vibratory plate tamper. Use a hand tamper in areas too small for a vibratory plate tamper. A minimum of two passes by vibratory tamper per every 3" to 4" of base material is recommended.



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K9Grass Layout

With the base complete, it is time to bring the K9Grass into the area. The K9Grass comes in 15' wide rolls. The grass is directional, so K9Grass should always be installed with the pile consistently going in the same direction. Open up the rolls and roll them out in the area.

Trimming the Grass

K9Grass should be turned over and trimmed from the back using a utility knife. First, the cloth-like material along the edges of the K9Grass needs to be trimmed off from any edge that will be seamed to another piece of K9Grass if not a seamed edge, just overlap the grass beyond the border and the factory edge will come off when the grass is cut to fit.

With the edge flipped over so the back of the grass is exposed, count in a minimum of three rows from the first row of grass. Using a utility knife with a sharp blade, begin trimming the backing off. Stay within that gap between rows trimming off this excess material.

When adjacent rolls are trimmed, line up the rolls side by side. The grass should be able to be lined up and the seam essentially invisible. Make sure this is the case. Whatever the seam looks like now, is how it will look when finished.

When all adjacent rolls are lined up, the next step is to trim the ends of the grass where the grass goes over the board. For boards attached to something, the grass should be marked and cut so the grass comes just short (we're talking millimeters) of the wall. Do this by rolling the edge of the grass back and pressing the backing into the corner. Use a permanent marker to mark where to cut the grass; marking the back of the grass. Make a mark every few inches (closer together if the edge has a lot of movement), then roll the grass back and cut the grass from behind, tracing the marks made on the backing with the knife.

On free standing boards, the grass should be cut long so it can wrap over the end of the board. Mark the same way, just marking for a longer cut, then trim the grass from behind.

Securing the Rolls Before Seaming

The K9Grass is secured to the perimeter boards using 1/4" narrow crown stainless steel staples that are 1" in length. Staples are placed every inch on the outer most edge of the grass using a pneumatic staple gun. A "bite" staple, placed closer to the inside edge of the board, should be placed every 3" to 4" to complete securing. If securing a free standing edge, the grass should be stapled on top first, then wrapped and stapled every 4" to 6" on the side.

For now, secure the edges of one of the rolls that is to be seamed together. Don't staple any closer than 2' from the seam edge. This needs to remain unattached so the seam can be put together. The rolls should not be stretched or kicked out. K9Grass will tighten up some after it is installed.



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Seaming

The two pieces of grass should be lined up. The backing should not overlap, or even touch. The two pieces should be just short of touching. Fold back the rolls – about 1' on either side of the seam and lay fiber seam tape, shiny side down if there is a shiny side the length of the seam. Staple the tape to the board at either end of the seam. This is to keep the tape from moving while the glue is being applied.

Mix the glue (if using two-part), then apply the adhesive to the fiber seam tape using the notched trowel. Cover the seam tape with glue to within about 1" from the edge of the tape. Coverage of glue is approximately 30 linear feet per gallon. Do not apply glue too thick. More glue is not better.

When closing the seam (attaching two pieces of grass), bring in one side first and lay it down. It should cover half of the tape. Now bring the other side down to match it. Be careful to make sure that grass blades from both rolls do not get trapped in the seam or touch the glue. Any tiny gaps or overlays in seam should be corrected at this time by adjusting the loose (unattached) roll of grass. The knitted backing also allows for some small maneuvering of the grass.

Once the seam is complete, secure the edges of the unsecured roll as well as the seam that was put together. Remember to not get within 2' of the next seam, if there is one. Repeat this process as necessary.

Cutting in Sides and Finish Securing the Grass

Allow the seams to set. Set up time can vary, but will likely be from about 45 minutes to one hour, but can vary based on humidity levels and weather conditions. Check and double check the edges for any areas where the grass may be loose or unattached. If there is a weak spot, the dogs will find it. Check the seams to ensure there is a good bond everywhere.

Clean Up

On free standing edges, the material on the other side of the K9Grass (natural grass, stone, mulch, etc.) can now be filled in over the wrapped edge.

Use a blower to get rid of loose blades from the cutting and if the grass or area around it is dirty from the install, rinse off with hose and water. The grass is now ready to be used.

K9Grass is not maintenance free. In fact, maintenance is a critical component to long term success. The grass needs to be rinsed and kept free of hair and debris. Make sure to request the General Maintenance Instructions for K9Grass as well as information on our line of cleaning products.

Your ForeverLawn dealer can provide specific products and guidance based on your unique requirements.



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K9Grass Edge Detail

