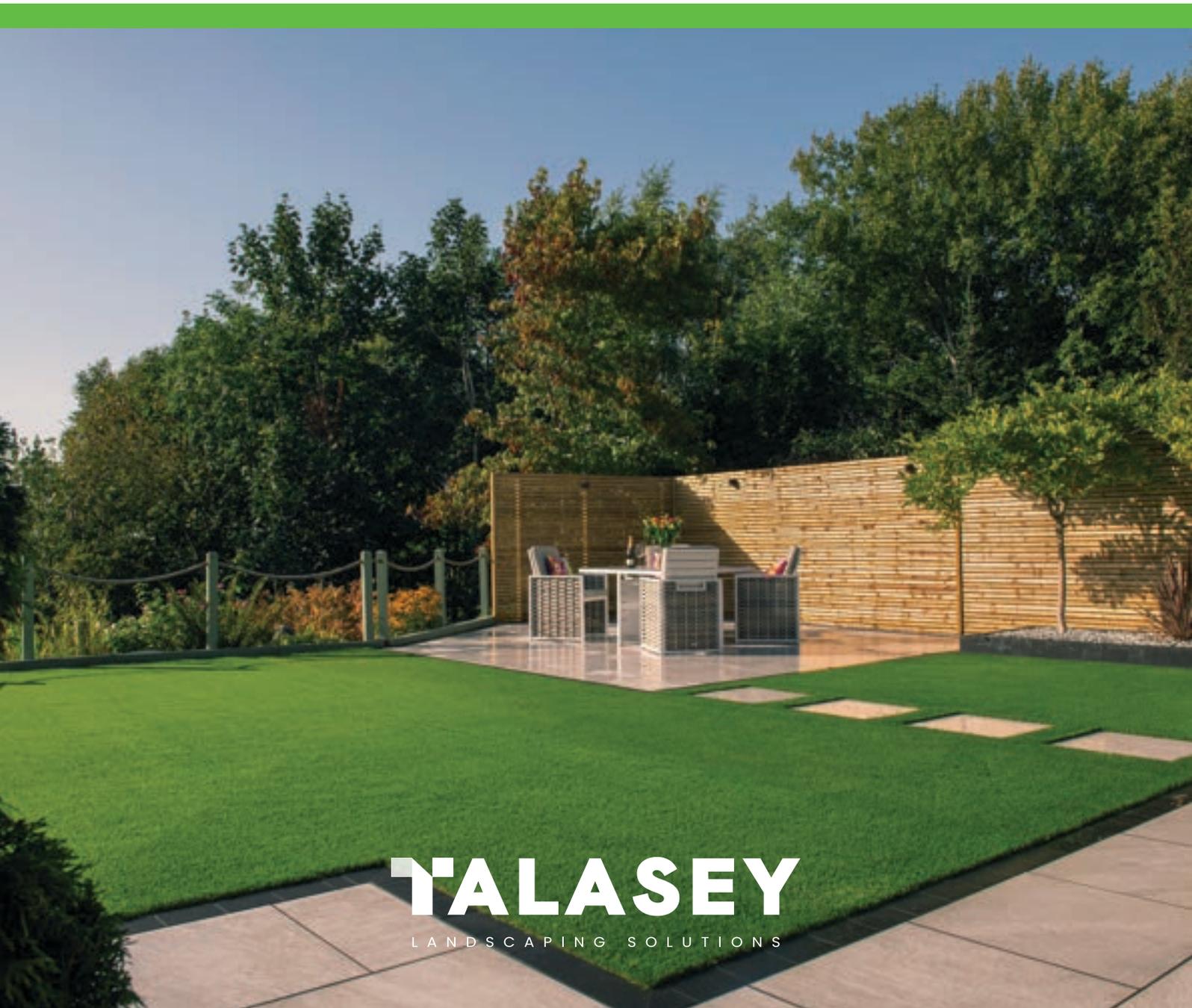




A Guide to Installing **Luxigraze**



TALASEY
LANDSCAPING SOLUTIONS

If this is your first time ever, or first time in a while, using our Luxigraze products, we strongly recommend reading all sections of our Guides before starting an installation. These can be found in the Knowledge Hub at www.luxigraze.co.uk.

Any artificial grass landscaping project is a significant investment, and so the installation of the artificial grass should be done correctly to minimise the risk of any problems once it's laid.

If you decide to use a professional contractor, thoroughly research the installer and their company, check online reviews, ask for references from previous projects of a similar nature, visit previous jobs, and make sure you are comfortable in dealing with the company.

Competent installation of artificial grass is a professional job best undertaken by an experienced installer. However, if you do decide to install the grass yourself, do plenty of research into materials and methods, and seek the best advice on how to carry out the installation.

The Luxigraze Quotation Form is available from either our Customer Experience Team or downloadable from the website. Please complete and return to obtain an accurate quotation, for the supply and delivery of the Luxigraze Artificial Grass and accessories, to cover your required area, or speak to your local stockist.

Many people are surprised to learn just how much is involved when it comes to installing artificial grass, which is one reason we always recommend an experienced installer to lay artificial grass. Their experience and expertise will result in a longer lasting, better performing artificial lawn.

This next section guides you through the basics of correct laying methods for artificial grass.

Top Tips

- **Always** inspect your product to ensure you are completely happy before you lay. Inspect the packaging upon delivery and roll out the artificial grass, before installing.
- **Always** order at the same time, to ensure batch match and colour consistency
- **Never** lay straight onto soil or natural grass
- **Always** ensure you lay multiple pieces of artificial grass with the pile running in the same direction
- **Always** leave the artificial grass to settle, once first unrolled, for a minimum of 24 hours. This allows it to acclimatise and any creasing or wrinkling to fall out.

Preparation

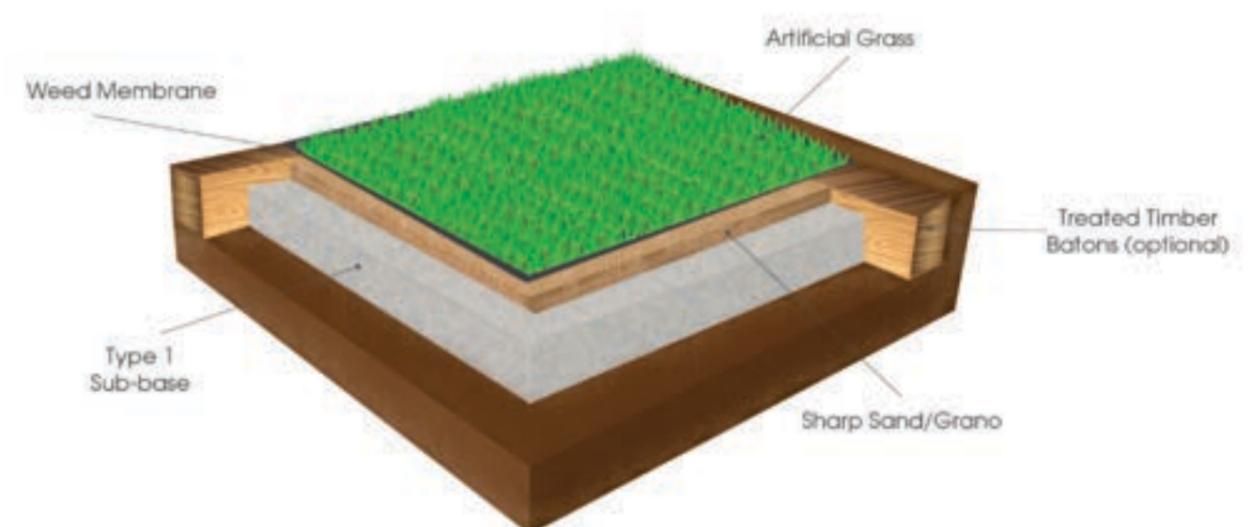
We understand how exciting laying a new lawn can be, but please ensure that the correct equipment and materials are to hand before starting the installation process.

Materials List

- Luxigraze Artificial Grass
- Luxigraze Jointing Tape (required to seam 2 pieces of grass together)
- Luxigraze Adhesive (can be used with the Jointing Tape to complete a seam. Can also be used to secure perimeters on a hard base)
- Luxigraze U Pins to secure the Luxigraze Artificial Grass into soft ground
- Weed membrane
- Type 1 crushed stone (for every 10sq.metres of Luxigraze Artificial Grass, we recommend 1 tonne)
- Sharp sand/grano (for every 10sq.metres of Luxigraze Artificial Grass, we recommend 0.5 tonne)
- 4 x 1 inch treated timber (if required)
- 2 x 1 inch treated timber stakes (if required)
- 40mm galvanised screws to secure the Luxigraze to the timber perimeter (if required)

Tools List

- Skip to dispose of old lawn
- Turf cutter (hired) or manual removal, if preferred
- Wacker plate / Compacter (hired) or lawn roller. if preferred
- Cartridge gun (for the Luxigraze Adhesive)
- Stanley Knife
- Wheelbarrow
- Screed bar for levelling
- Spade
- Rake
- Shovel
- Hammer
- Protective Gloves
- Knee Pads
- Safety Boots (Steel toe cap boots)
- Ear Defenders
- Eye Protection
- Face Protection
- Protective Clothing



Base Preparation & Installing Luxigraze

Our Luxigraze installation guide provides you with step-by-step advice on how to lay Luxigraze Artificial Grass. Preparation of the base is key to the look, stability and drainage of the artificial grass. Follow these simple steps to achieve a perfect finish, which will look fabulous for years to come.

Treated timber batons can be installed around the perimeter to allow you to screw and secure the Luxigraze Artificial Grass into place.

An alternative edge detail is to spread a concrete layer often called a haunch, around the perimeter. This should be approximately 50mm deep by 100mm wide with a smooth flat top, finished around 10-15mm below the desired level, to leave room for the grass. Ensure the concrete is completely cured before laying the sub-base. The sand/grano dust should be level with the top of the haunch. Once set the artificial grass can be secured to the top of the haunch using the Luxigraze Adhesive. Press down with your hands to ensure a tight seal. Please be aware this needs to be pulled and fixed under tension, as once the adhesive is cured, it will be difficult to adjust.



Step 1 - Remove your existing turf

Depending on conditions, remove your existing lawn and top soil to a depth of approx. 40-80mm.

This can be done either by hand, using a spade, or using a mechanical turf cutter.

Dispose of waste in a skip. Compact the ground using a wacker or roller.



Step 2 - Edge the area (Optional)

If your planned artificial grass area is surrounded by fixed objects such as a patio, fence, or wall, then no additional edging is required. Luxigraze U Pins can then be used around the edge of the grass to hold it in place.

If constructing a new area, edging is required to keep the sub-base materials in place. Always install the edging before laying the sub-base. Treated timber battens/sleepers, aluminium / metal edging, concrete or brick edging can be used, depending on the preferred finish.



Step 3 - Add aggregate

Once the edging is in place, fill the area with aggregate (MOT Type 1 Stone). Rake level then compact the sub base using a wacker or roller. To create a chamfered finish at perimeters, set at approx. 30-35mm below perimeter edgings. Using a rake level the area off to natural falls.

We recommend 1 tonne / 10 sq. metres of Luxigraze Artificial Grass.



Step 4 - Add Sand/ Grano Dust

Top up the remaining area with a thin layer (approx. 10-20mm) of sharp sand/grano dust. Using a rake, level the area out and create a crowned profile. This produces a natural appearance to the installation will help accommodate any settlement over time. Compact again, to ensure a smooth surface. Keep the base layer roughly 20mm below the top of your edging.

Grano dust is a great option over sharp sand - very stable, porous and holds less moisture, providing great drainage. If you are a pet owner, this means it is far less likely to hold the smell of urine.



We recommend 0.5 tonne / 10 sq. Metres of Luxigraze Artificial Grass.

Step 5 - Add a membrane Layer

Lay the weed membrane immediately under the grass. This prevents weed growth, whilst allowing water drainage, and stops any seeds finding their way into the sand/grano dust, through the drainage holes, and germinating. Roll out and peg the weed membrane. It needs to cover the entire area and the edges need to be overlapped. Trim the membrane with a Stanley knife and secure in place with galvanized nails.



Step 6 - Roll out the artificial grass

Move the roll into position and unroll your Luxigraze Artificial Grass, taking care not to damage the grass when removing the packaging. Lay on top of your prepared base, being careful not to move the weed membrane.



Make sure the grass pile is facing towards your home or main viewpoint as it will ensure a full and natural look. If the pile is facing away from your home, it will appear shiny. For installations where the pile is horizontal to the home, the artificial grass will look great - you will not be looking into the pile, and therefore no glare will come off making it appear shiny!



It is recommended to leave the grass to settle, before installing, for a minimum of 24 hours, to acclimatise and allow any creasing, wrinkling or pressure marks to fall out. This is due to it being flattened after being tightly rolled up in storage.

** If more than one roll of Luxigraze is ordered at the same time (on the same order), and supplied directly from our warehouse, we will always guarantee they batch match, to ensure there are no slight colour differences. Please be aware, if you are order more artificial grass at a later date, there may be a colour difference, due to batch variations.

Please ensure if purchasing multiple pieces of from Luxigraze Artificial Grass from a stockist, you make them aware they are for the same area, to ensure batch match.

PLEASE DO NOT INSTALL THE LUXIGRAZE IF YOU ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE PRODUCT. ONCE INSTALLED, THE PRODUCT IS DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED.

Step 7 - Trim the artificial grass

Once the grass has settled and acclimatised, trim the excess artificial grass. Cut and trim in at the perimeters using a sharp Stanley knife, ensuring you cut the grass neat to your defined edge. Ensure the knife is sharp & swap blades every few metres as it makes a much cleaner and neater cut. Always remember to cut from the underneath of the grass, reducing the size until it fits perfectly.



TRIM WITH CAUTION. Do not over trim. Use protective gloves when handling sharp knives

Step 8 - Fix down the edges of the artificial grass

If you are certain that the grass is in the correct position, it now needs to be secured in place. If incorporating timber batons nails should be tapped into the edging every 15-20cm. To secure to a concrete haunch, use the Luxigraze Adhesive and press down with your hands to ensure a tight seal. Alternatively, fix down the edges of the artificial grass, using Luxigraze U Pins, every 15-20cm, ruffling the pile to disguise the pins.



Cutting Techniques

Where there is an obstacle (like a tree or post), fold the grass back and decide the shortest route to cut. Then cut between the tufts, cutting in the same direction from the base to one edge of the lawn. Take care not to trim any of the blades of grass as this will create a poor seam.

Where the grass fits too tight around the obstacle, splice the carpet starting at the bottom of the obstacle. This releases any tension and allows the grass to lay flat. The two edges that have been cut to go around the post should come together. If not, this indicates that the grass is still under tension and will need further cutting. Finally, join the two edges back together with Luxigraze Jointing Tape & Luxigraze Adhesive.



Step 9 - Brush up the pile of the artificial grass

After the grass is in place, has been secured, and any joins cured, (see Joining The Artificial Grass) brush up the pile of the artificial grass, with a mechanical power brush or stiff broom, to lift the pile and stimulate the fibres. This rejuvenates the pile from storage compaction, due to being rolled up for a period of time.



Optional Sand Dressing

Sand dressing is not necessary for domestic gardens, however we would recommend where there is high footfall and regular play activity, as it adds stability and weight to the product.

For commercial applications, in particular, a light dressing of kiln dried is advised after laying. This makes the grass more fire resistant, as it acts as an extinguisher, slowing the spread of fire to another surface.

For these applications, we would suggest approx. 5-8kg/sq.metre kiln dried silica sand to be added to the surface of the grass after laying. Simply disperse over the total surface area then brush in with a stiff broom.

The installation should only be carried out during dry weather. Should the lawn get wet, this will cause problems when infilling with the sand.



Tips to success

- Take your time
- Always ensure your knife is sharp - Blunt knives make a messy cut
- Measure and plan - This makes the job of installing a success

Joining the Artificial Grass

If a join in the artificial grass is required, butt both pieces together, ensuring the pile is running in the same direction.



Step 1

Fold back 30-40cm on each side along the length of the join and trim from the back side, with a Stanley knife, a minimum of 2 stitch lines in from the edge of each roll. Cut the latex backing in-between the stitches and not the grass fibres, as this will result in a poor seam. Remove any selvage (this will be found on one edge of a 2m wide cut or both edges on a 4m cut).



Step 2

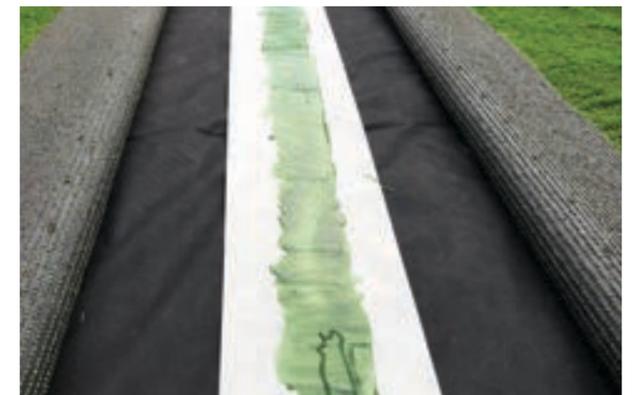
Fold the grass back over to enable the join to be checked. Manoeuvre the two pieces until they are square with each other. Once satisfied, fold back the grass.



Unroll the Luxigraze Jointing Tape, green (shiny) side down, along the entire length of the join. Secure in place, to stop the tape moving.

Step 3

Apply the adhesive onto the rough (white) side of the jointing tape in a 'zig zag' motion. (Allow 1 Cartridge of Luxigraze Adhesive for every 3m of Luxigraze Jointing Tape). It is recommended to leave approx. 5cm free from adhesive at either edge of the tape. Spread the adhesive evenly down the centre of the tape using a notched trowel. Do not apply too much glue & take care not to get any glue on the grass.



Step 4

Fold down the two cuts, pressing the grass into the wet adhesive. Ensure both edges meet correctly and neatly, no glue finds itself on the grass surface and the grass fibres are not tucked under the grass. The more care taken over this stage, the neater and less visible the join will be. If the adhesive gets on the grass, use a light solvent and cloth to remove it.

Take great care when laying the grass join as this is very hard to undo if you make a mistake.



TIP: Brush the grass fibres up where two rolls join to ensure a neat join. Reposition until you are happy with the joins across the whole area.

Step 5

Following application, weight the join to ensure a flat, even joint is formed. Allow the adhesive to cure (see Luxigraze Adhesive for curing time). Leave at least 2 hours for the glue to cure & up to a day if below freezing. Be careful when walking on the grass in this time.



Step 6

Once satisfied, and the adhesive is cured, complete the cutting in and secure the artificial grass in place.



Self Adhesive Jointing Tape, which is supplied in 5m lengths, can be used as an alternative to the above. However, it is only recommended on smaller areas, with small joins, such as a balcony or roof garden. Follow steps 1 and 2 above, roll out the Self Adhesive Jointing Tape, peel off the backing and then follow steps 5, 6 and 7. It is advised to leave the Self Adhesive Jointing Tape approx. 24 hours, before cutting in and/or use.

Installing on Hard Surfaces

The base needs to be smooth, clean, dry and free from dust, debris, loose particles, water or contaminants, such as oil, as they could affect the adhesive curing. It should ideally have a fall to help disperse rainwater (minimum 1.5%).

Paving slabs are not satisfactory, as the pattern of the slabs may show through on the surface of the grass. We recommend the slabs are to be removed and the sub base covered with a fine layer of sharp sand / grano dust, before installing the artificial grass. Please check the suitability of the sub base once the slabs are removed and fill in any lower parts, ensuring the sub base is to the correct level and levelled, using a wacker plate. Follow the 'Base Preparation' section, above.

If a new base is being constructed, a slight fall should be incorporated to assist drainage. However, if there is no fall, it is recommended that a few drainage holes are made in the concrete, to allow the rainwater to drain through the artificial grass. The advice is for newly laid concrete to be sealed, otherwise the adhesive will seep through and not adhere properly.

Fully bonding to a solid base is acceptable, as long as there is a fall to allow the water to run off freely.

To install artificial grass over existing decking, we would advise against a shorter pile artificial grass, as there is a chance you may see the pattern of the gaps between the boards. It is recommended to select a product with a pile of 30mm and above, to minimise this. Another option is to use Marine Plywood as when nailed directly on the decking, it will create a completely flat surface, on which the artificial grass can be installed. It will then be necessary to drill holes in the Marine Ply, so the water can drain through. To secure artificial grass to decking, it is instructed to fix it down with a staple gun or tack in place to ensure it doesn't move.

It is recommended you unroll the artificial grass and allow it a minimum of 24 hours to settle. Trim to size, stretch out the artificial grass and fix using Luxigraze Adhesive, ensuring there are no creases or trapped air. This can be spot stuck or secured along the perimeters (1 Luxigraze Adhesive will provide a 10m bead).

Weights are advised to be placed on the surface during the advised curing time (see Luxigraze Adhesive for details). Alternatively, the surface could be rolled periodically during the curing time. Once you are happy with the results, brush pile with a stiff broom or mechanical power brush, to lift the fibres.

Tips to success

- Be aware that the adhesive for artificial grass installations is intended to be very strong so if you ever want to remove the grass it may leave a mark.
- The success of your artificial grass installation on top of a smooth solid base will also depend on how well the existing surface drains water.

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