



LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES TO BRISBANE. REDLANDS. LOGAN. BAYSIDE.

THE COMPLETE GUIDE

Guide to Laying Turf

A simple, step by step guide to preparing, laying and establishing a beautiful lawn in South East Queensland.

FEATURING SIR WALTER DNA CERTIFIED TURF



rocknsoil.com.au

07 3245 5677
1398 New Cleveland Rd, Chandler QLD

WHAT'S INSIDE

Your lawn, in 4 weekends or less

Turf is the fastest way to transform a yard. It gives you an instant lawn, with no waiting for seed. But a great lawn is made **before** the first roll goes down. Get the soil right, pick the right grass for your light, and water it properly for **6** weeks, and you'll have a lawn that lasts decades.

SECTION 1

Guide to Laying Turf

- Step 1. Measure and order
- Step 2. Prepare the ground
- Step 3. Lay the turf
- Step 4. Water and first mow

SECTION 2

Choosing the Right Turf

- Sunny yards
- Shady yards
- A mix of both

SECTION 3

Ordering Turf and Soil

- Which soil goes with which lawn
- How much to order
- Book a free consultation

Before you start: the kit list

- Glyphosate weed killer (**10** to **14** days ahead)
- Rake, shovel and a wheelbarrow
- Sharp spade or turf knife for trimming
- Water filled lawn roller (hire it)
- Under turf soil (see Section 3)
- Starter fertiliser
- A sprinkler and a working tap
- An extra pair of hands

THE RULE THAT MATTERS MOST

Turf is a living plant, and it is perishable.

Order it for the day you're ready to lay it, and get the first rolls down within about **2** hours of delivery. Turf left stacked on a pallet overnight in a Queensland summer will cook from the inside out.

BEST TIME TO LAY IN BRISBANE

Spring (September to November) is ideal, with roots gripping in about **2** weeks. **Autumn (March to May)** is a close second. **Winter** works well in SEQ but takes roughly double the time to establish. The upside is far less watering. **Summer** is fine if you can water **2** to **3** times a day.

SECTION 1 • GUIDE TO LAYING TURF

1 MEASURE & ORDER

Work out your area, then book the delivery

Sketch your yard and break it into simple shapes: rectangles, triangles and circles. Measure each shape, work out its area, then add them together.

Add 5% to the total. You'll lose a little to cutting around trees, garden beds, taps and odd corners.

The 3 formulas you need

Rectangle = length × width

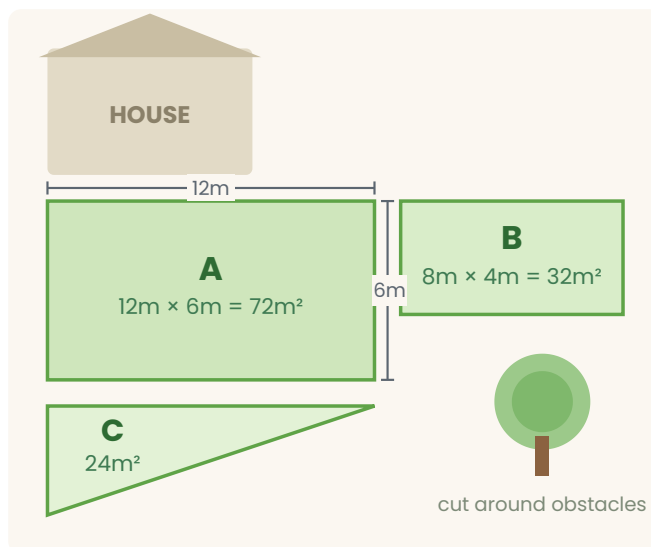
Triangle = (base × height) ÷ 2

Circle = 3.14 × radius × radius

SKIP THE MATHS

Rock 'n' Soil has a free **turf calculator** and a **cubic metre calculator** for your soil. Pop in your length and width and it does the rest.

Open the turf calculator at rocknsoil.com.au



Break the yard into shapes, add the areas, then add 5%.

$$A + B + C = 128\text{m}^2$$

+ 5% for cuts and waste = **135m² of turf**

ORDER IN THE RIGHT SEQUENCE

Book your **soil first** so you can prepare the base, then schedule the **turf for the day you're ready to lay**. Orders usually arrive in the morning but can be delayed, so keep the day free. Turf is cut fresh to order: Sir Grange, Empire Zoysia, TifTuf and Zoysia Australis need **24 hours' notice for a direct delivery from the turf farm**, or an order by **Thursday midday** for weekend collection or delivery from our yard.

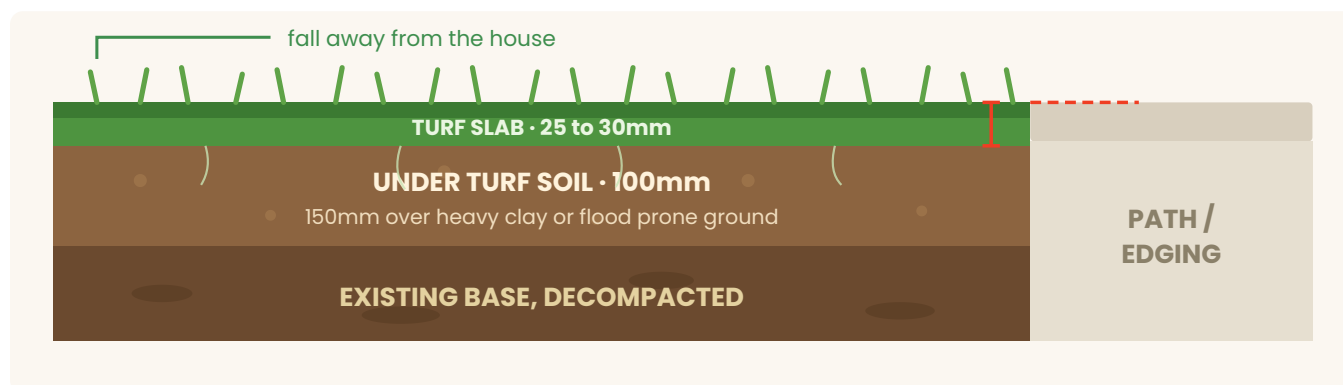
A realistic timeline

WHEN	WHAT YOU'RE DOING
2 weeks out	Measure the area. Spray the existing lawn and weeds with glyphosate.
1 week out	Second spray if needed. Order your under turf soil and book the turf delivery.
Day before	Remove the dead lawn, spread and level the soil, set your fall, roll and rake.
Lay day	Spread starter fertiliser, lay the turf, roll it, water deeply.
Weeks 1 to 6	Water to the schedule in Step 4. First mow once rooted. Feed at week 6.

2 PREPARE THE GROUND

This is where a good lawn is actually made

A lawn is only as good as what's underneath it. Roughly **80% of your effort belongs in this step**. It's far cheaper to fix the soil now than to fight a struggling lawn for the next **10** years.



Cross section of a correctly prepared turf bed.

GET YOUR LEVELS RIGHT

Finish the soil **25 to 30mm below paths and edging**, so the laid turf sits flush with the hard surfaces around it.

Do these, in this order

- **Kill everything first.** Spray grass and weeds with glyphosate and allow **10 to 14 days**. A second spray is often needed.
- **Remove the dead lawn.** Laying over old turf creates a barrier roots cannot push through.
- **Flag your sprinklers** so you don't slice an irrigation line.
- **Decompact and rake.** Turn the base over, remove rocks, roots and clods.
- **Add under turf soil to 100mm.** Use **150mm** over heavy clay or where water pools. See Section 3.
- **Screed and lightly compact.** Roll with the lawn roller 1/3 to 1/2 full of water to reveal low spots. Top up, rake, repeat.
- **Set the fall** so water runs away from the house and doesn't pool.
- **Water prepared bed** and spread starter fertiliser.

CHECK YOUR PH

Grab a cheap test kit. You're aiming for **pH 5.5 to 7.0**. It's the most commonly skipped step and the most common reason a new lawn sulks.

Fixing Brisbane's 2 problem soils

Heavy clay, common through Brisbane's west and south, stays sodden and sets like concrete. Break it up with **gypsum**, then build a free draining layer over the top at **150mm**.

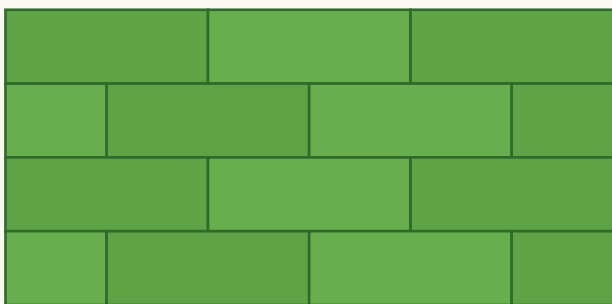
Sandy soil, common on the bayside and coast, drains so fast the grass never gets a drink. Mix in **organic matter** to hold moisture and nutrients.

3 LAY THE TURF

Start straight, stagger the joints, roll it in

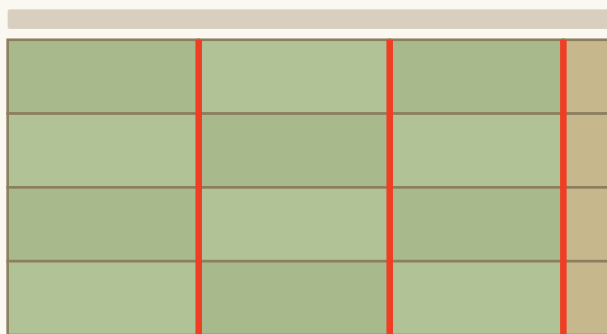
✓ RIGHT: staggered, like brickwork

START ALONG THE LONGEST STRAIGHT EDGE



Work forwards off the laid turf, never on the prepared soil.

✗ WRONG: aligned joints



Continuous seams channel water away. Thin edge strips dry out and die.

On a slope, always lay ACROSS the slope, never up and down it

Stagger every second row by $\frac{1}{2}$ a slab, exactly like laying bricks.

How to lay it

- **Start on your longest straight edge**, such as a fence line, driveway or path. Getting this first row true keeps the whole lawn square.
- **Butt the edges tightly together.** Push ends and sides firmly against each other. No gaps, no overlaps, and don't stretch the slab.
- **Stagger every second row** by $\frac{1}{2}$ a slab, brickwork style.
- **Use full slabs at the perimeter** and trim on the inside. Thin offcuts at the edge dry out and die.
- **Water within 30 minutes** of the first rolls going down. Don't wait until the whole lawn is finished.
- **Roll the finished lawn** with a water filled roller in 2 directions to press out air pockets.

IF YOU CAN'T LAY IT STRAIGHT AWAY

Move the pallet into **shade**, cover the stack with damp hessian, and sprinkle it lightly. It's a holding measure, not a solution, and the turf still needs to go down the same day.

WHY ROLLING MATTERS

Rolling presses the roots into contact with your soil. Air pockets are where new turf dries out and dies. Good soil contact can speed up establishment by up to $\frac{1}{3}$.

Don't

- Kneel or walk repeatedly on freshly laid turf
- Leave gaps between slabs "to grow in"
- Lay over the top of the old lawn

4 WATER & FIRST MOW

The next 6 weeks decide everything

Give your new lawn a deep soak of around **25mm of water** within the first hour. After that, the single most important job is keeping the turf **and the top 25mm of soil** continuously moist until the roots grip.



A 6 week establishment plan. In summer, double the frequency in weeks 1 and 2.

Watering, by season

- **Summer:** 2 to 3 times daily for the first week
- **Spring and autumn:** once or twice daily
- **Winter:** the soil holds moisture longer, so water less, but never let it dry

Water at the right time

Early morning and mid afternoon. Avoid late evening, because leaves that stay wet overnight in SEQ humidity invite fungal disease. Water areas near walls, fences and driveways more often, as reflected heat dries them fast.

SIGNS IT'S THIRSTY

- Blades curling or shrivelling
 - A dull grey blue tint
 - Edges browning or shrinking back
 - Seed heads appearing
- Act the same day.

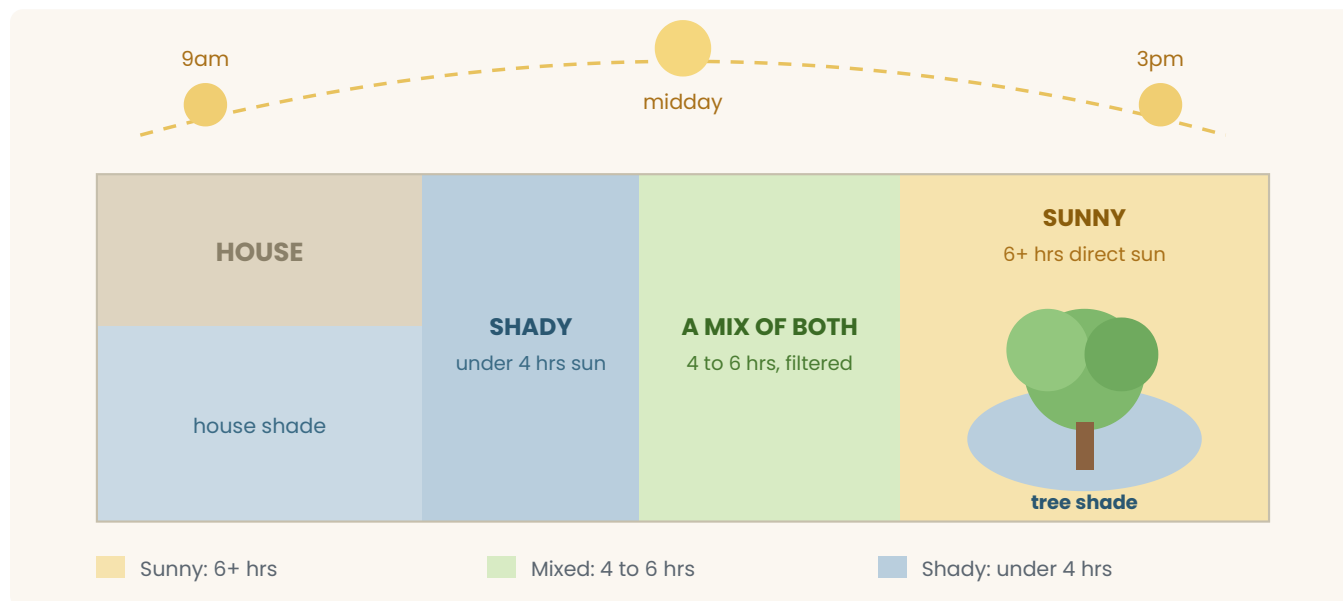
THE FIRST MOW

Wait until the turf is rooted, usually **7 to 14 days in spring or summer**, and up to **6 weeks in winter**. Test it with the tug test first. Set the mower to its **highest setting**, use a sharp blade, and never remove more than **1/3** of the leaf. Lower the height gradually over the next **2 or 3** mows. Scalping a new lawn is the fastest way to let weeds in.

SECTION 2 • CHOOSING YOUR TURF

First, work out how much sun your yard really gets

Nearly every failed lawn in Brisbane comes down to the wrong grass in the wrong light. Before you choose a variety, spend a full day checking your yard at **9am, midday and 3pm** and mark where the shade falls. Remember to allow for trees that will grow, and for the low winter sun.



Map your light before you choose. Most Brisbane yards contain all **3** zones.

SUNNY

6+ hours direct sun

Open backyards, nature strips, west facing blocks. Heat and drought tolerance matter most here.

SHADY

Under 4 hours direct sun

Beside the house, under mature trees, between fences. Shade tolerance is not negotiable.

A MIX OF BOTH

4 to 6 hours, or filtered

The most common Brisbane yard. You need an all rounder that handles both extremes.

THE GOLDEN RULE

If you're laying **a single variety across the whole yard**, choose for your **shadiest area**. A shade tolerant grass will still perform in full sun, but a sun lover will thin out and die in shade, no matter how well you water it.

SECTION 2 • OPTION 1

Turf for sunny yards

6 or more hours of direct sun. Your grass needs to shrug off heat, UV and dry spells, and in an open yard it usually needs to handle kids and pets too.

HYBRID BERMUDA

TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda

The best all round sun performer. A fine leaf hybrid bred for drought. It holds colour on less water than almost anything else and **repairs itself** after wear, which makes it a standout for busy families and high traffic yards.

Sun needed	Min 2 to 3 hrs
Drought	Excellent
Wear	Excellent, self repairing
Warranty	10 years

From **\$16.90 / m²**

BUFFALO

Palmetto Buffalo

Hard wearing and heat proof. Bred in central Florida, its heat and drought tolerance is second to none. In summer it can go **7 to 10** days between waterings once established. Holds green colour through winter when other grasses brown off.

Sun needed	Full sun to shade
Drought	Outstanding
Wear	Extremely hard wearing
Leaf	Coarse, dark green

From **\$17.00 / m²**

COUCH • BUDGET

Aussie Blue Turf (A Grade)

Lush and affordable for full sun. A thin bladed couch with a tight leaf and root structure that gives dense, even coverage. Excellent in sandy and coastal soils. **Not shade tolerant**, so full sun only.

Sun needed	Full sun
Drought	Good
Wear	Moderate
Mowing	Weekly

From **\$14.00 / m²**

ALSO WORTH A LOOK

Nullarbor Couch is the value option for large, open, full sun areas like nature strips and paddock edges. From **\$9.90/m²**.

WATCH OUT

Couch and Bermuda varieties are sun lovers. If any part of the area gets less than about **3** hours of direct sun, they will thin and bare off there. Check your shade map first.

Prices shown include GST and were correct at the time of publishing. See rocknsoil.com.au/collections/turf for current pricing and availability.

SECTION 2 • OPTION 2

Turf for shady yards

Under **4** hours of direct sun: beside the house, under established trees, or hemmed in by fences. Every grass needs *some* light, so aim for a minimum of **2** to **3** hours of direct sun or a good stretch of bright filtered light.

BUFFALO • MOST POPULAR

Sir Walter DNA Certified Turf

The safest choice for a shady yard. Performs on as little as **2 to 3 hours of direct sun**, soft underfoot, and genuinely low maintenance. DNA Certified means it's guaranteed 100% genuine and free of weeds and foreign grasses.

Sun needed	Min 2 to 3 hrs
Drought	Excellent
Feel	Soft, for kids and pets
Warranty	10 years

From \$16.90 / m²

ZOYSIA • DEEPEST SHADE

Zoysia Australis

Handles the heaviest shade of the range. Copes with up to **70 to 75% shade** given around **4** hours of light, making it the pick for yards with mature trees or filtered light. Hardy blue green tone, deep rhizomes, highly disease resistant.

Sun needed	Min 4 hrs
Shade	Up to 70 to 75%
Wear	Medium to good
Mowing	Very low

From \$16.90 / m²

BUFFALO • SHADE + WEAR

Palmetto Buffalo

For shade that still gets used. Combines genuine shade tolerance with an extremely hard wearing habit, ideal for a shaded side yard that doubles as the dog run or the kids' shortcut. Thin thatch layer and strong winter colour.

Sun needed	Shade tolerant
Drought	Outstanding
Wear	Extremely hard wearing
Winter colour	Stays green

From \$17.00 / m²

GIVE SHADE A HELPING HAND

- Lift and thin tree canopies to let filtered light through
- Mow shaded areas **higher**, because more leaf means more light captured
- Keep foot traffic light, as shaded grass recovers slowly
- Water less often than sunny areas, because shaded soil stays wet longer

WHEN NO GRASS WILL WORK

Below about **2** hours of direct sun with no filtered light, no turf variety will hold on long term. In deep shade under a dense canopy, consider mulch, shade tolerant groundcover or paving instead, and put your turf budget where it will actually thrive.

Prices shown include GST and were correct at the time of publishing. See rocknsoil.com.au/collections/turf for current pricing and availability.

SECTION 2 • OPTION 3

Turf for a mix of both

Sun in the middle of the yard, shade down the side, dappled light under a tree. This is the typical Brisbane block. You need a single variety that handles the full range, so you're not stuck with **2** different lawns meeting in the middle.

BUFFALO • ALL ROUNDER

Sir Walter DNA Certified Turf

If you buy a single turf for a mixed yard, buy this. It's the most versatile lawn in the range, happy in full Queensland sun and still dense in **2 to 3 hours of light**. Soft, drought hardy and forgiving of an imperfect watering routine.

Sun range	2 to 3 hrs to full sun
Drought	Excellent
Feel	Soft, for kids and pets
Warranty	10 years

From **\$16.90 / m²**

ZOYSIA • LOW EFFORT

Empire Zoysia

The low maintenance mixed yard option. Copes with **2 to 3 hours of sun**, shrugs off Queensland heat and humidity, resists weeds, and only needs mowing every **3 to 4 weeks**. Keeps a dark green hue right through winter.

Sun range	2 to 3 hrs to full sun
Drought	Excellent
Wear	Very good
Mowing	Every 3 to 4 weeks

From **\$17.00 / m²**

ZOYSIA • PREMIUM

Sir Grange Zoysia

The showpiece lawn. The slowest growing zoysia in Australia, with a fine, dense, golf green look and the least mowing, fertilising and watering of any lawn in the range. Best in moderate traffic yards where appearance is the priority.

Sun range	Min 2 to 3 hrs
Maintenance	Lowest of all
Wear	Moderate traffic
Warranty	10 years

From **\$23.40 / m²**

Quick comparison

All turf is sold by the square metre. Prices include GST, correct at publishing. Full range at rocknsoil.com.au/collections/turf

VARIETY	BEST FOR	MIN SUN	WEAR	MOWING	FROM
TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda	Sunny, active yards	2 to 3 hrs	Excellent	Regular	\$16.90/m ²
Palmetto Buffalo	Sun or shade, heavy use	Shade tolerant	Excellent	Regular	\$17.00/m ²
Aussie Blue Turf	Full sun, budget	Full sun	Moderate	Weekly	\$14.00/m ²
Sir Walter DNA Certified	Mixed light, the all rounder	2 to 3 hrs	Good	Regular	\$16.90/m ²
Zoysia Australis	Heavy shade	4 hrs	Medium to good	Very low	\$16.90/m ²
Empire Zoysia	Mixed light, low effort	2 to 3 hrs	Very good	3 to 4 weeks	\$17.00/m ²
Sir Grange Zoysia	Premium, low maintenance	2 to 3 hrs	Moderate	Lowest	\$23.40/m ²

SECTION 3 • ORDERING

Order the right soil with your turf

Turf is only part of the order. Every new lawn needs **100mm of under turf soil** underneath it, or **150mm** over heavy clay and ground prone to waterlogging. Which soil you choose depends on how much sun your yard gets.

ORDERING FOR A SUNNY YARD

Order Organic Under Turf Blend

Sunny ground dries out fast. This blend of sandy loam, **composted organics and cane fibre** holds moisture and feeds new roots as they establish. Made to USGA sand specifications and **Australian Standard AS4419**.

Order Organic Under Turf Blend

TAP TO OPEN ON [ROCKNSOIL.COM.AU](https://rocknsoil.com.au)

Holds moisture · feeds new roots

ORDERING FOR A SHADY YARD

Order 80/20 Under Turf Loam

Shaded ground stays wet longer, and soggy soil in SEQ humidity means fungal problems. This **80% washed sand, 20% washed soil** blend drains freely and drives roots deeper. Also the right answer over clay, at **150mm**.

Order 80/20 Under Turf Loam

TAP TO OPEN ON [ROCKNSOIL.COM.AU](https://rocknsoil.com.au)

Free draining · great over clay

ORDERING FOR A MIX OF BOTH

Let your base soil decide

Don't split the order. A single soil across the whole yard gives you an even lawn. Choose based on what you're building on:

- **Sandy or free draining base** → Organic Under Turf Blend, for moisture holding
- **Heavy clay or compacted base** → 80/20 Under Turf, for drainage
- **Not sure?** Bring a sample of your soil into the yard at Chandler

SMALL JOB?

The 80/20 Loam also comes as **bagged under turf**, which is easier for repairs, small patches and boot load jobs.

Order bagged under turf online

2 EXTRAS WORTH ADDING TO THE ORDER

Gypsum (25kg, \$22) if your base is heavy clay. Work it in before the soil goes down.

A starter fertiliser spread over the prepared soil just before laying.

Browse the full soil and garden care range at rocknsoil.com.au

SECTION 3 • ORDERING

How much soil do I actually need?

Under turf soil is sold by the cubic metre. **1** cubic metre is about **4 wheelie bins**, or **1 full Rock 'n' Soil bulk bag**. Here's the shortcut:

1 CUBIC METRE OF UNDER TURF SOIL COVERS**20 m²****at 50mm deep**

minimum, good soil already

10 m²**at 100mm deep**★ **THE SWEET SPOT****6.7 m²****at 150mm deep**

poor clay soils or flood prone

We recommend **100mm** as standard. Example: a 135m² lawn at **100mm** needs roughly 13.5m³ of under turf soil.

Your ordering checklist

	ORDER	WHAT TO ASK FOR	WHEN
1	Gypsum (clay bases only)	25kg bags, worked in before soil goes down	With the soil
2	Under turf soil	Organic Under Turf Blend (sunny or sandy) or 80/20 Under Turf (shady or clay), at 100mm, or 150mm over clay	A few days before turf
3	Starter fertiliser	Spread over the prepared soil just before laying	With the soil
4	Turf	Your m ² total + 5%. Some varieties need 24 hrs' notice for a direct farm delivery, or a Thursday midday order for weekend collection	Delivered the day you lay
5	Lawn roller hire	Fill 1/3 to 1/2 with water, used at prep and again after laying	Same day



Delivery or collection

We deliver soil and turf across Brisbane, Redlands, Logan and the Bayside, or collect from the yard at Chandler. Call **(07) 3245 5677** for part loads of ¼, ⅓ and ½ cubic metre.

USE THE TURF CALCULATOR

Pop your length and width into the **turf calculator** and the **cubic metre calculator** and both halves of your order are sized in about **30** seconds.

Open the turf calculator

TAP TO OPEN ON ROCKNSOIL.COM.AU



STILL NOT SURE?

Talk it through with us before you order

Every yard is different. Bring us your measurements, a couple of photos and a sample of your soil, and our team will tell you exactly which turf suits your light, which under turf soil suits your current soil base, and how much of each you need, so you order once and get it right.

Bring or send us

- Rough measurements or a sketch of the area
- Photos taken at 9am, midday and 3pm
- A sample of your existing soil
- How the lawn will be used: kids, pets, entertaining

We'll help you with

- The right turf variety for your light
- The right under turf soil for your current soil base
- Exact quantities, so nothing is wasted
- Delivery timing so your turf arrives ready to lay

BOOK A CONSULTATION

Talk to a landscaping connoisseur

Call the yard, send an enquiry through the website, or drop in at Chandler.

Monday to Saturday from 6:30am.

Sunday 8am to 1pm.

07 3245 5677

ENQUIRE ONLINE

rocknsoil.com.au/pages/contact

EMAIL US

sales@rocknsoil.com.au



LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES TO BRISBANE. REDLANDS. LOGAN. BAYSIDE.

DON'T FORGET

We Deliver.

**Let's get your
lawn started.**

CALL US

07 3245 5677

EMAIL US

sales@rocknsoil.com.au

VISIT US

**1398 New Cleveland Road,
Chandler QLD 4155**

OPENING TIMES

Mon to Sat 6:30am to 4:30pm
Sunday 8am to 1pm

