

Tips for Grass Driveways



Why install a grass driveway

Grassed driveways allow water to soak in rather than run off and allow the area to be used as extra play spaces. They also reduce the heat island effect, which is a problem in areas that have large amounts of hard surfaces. Cities can have temperatures 4-10 degrees warmer than suburban areas with more greenery. More greenery around the home can help lower temperatures in hot weather.

How to install a grass driveway

1. Roughly level the natural ground level. For this project clay formed the natural ground and it was roughly leveled to the desired heights.
2. Spread crushed rock on top of the ground and then compact it. For this project a compactor was hired and around 50mm of crusher dust was compacted to form a solid, level surface.



4. Spread sandy loam soil over the grid, with each hole in the grid filled with the soil. For this project a bobcat moved the bulk of the soil and then rakes were used by hand to spread the soil into each grid hole.



3. Lay the recycled plastic Geohex grid onto the crushed rock. The grid is easy to handle and click together, and it is easy to cut to length or to cut out around pipes.

5. Lay the turf onto the soil. As the grid stabilises the surface and creates a level base, the soil does not get compacted while the grass is being laid and the laying of the grass is a simple process. For this project Santa Ana Couch was used, as it is hardwearing.



6. When all the grass is laid, water in the grass.



How to modify grassed driveway areas

For this project there were a number of areas along the edge of the driveway where the grid had not been laid. After a long rain it was found these edges would sink and, given the stability in the areas where the grid was laid, it was decided to retrofit the Geohex grid in a number of areas.

1. Peel back areas of turf that have been laid.

2. Prepare the areas where the driveway is to be modified and new areas of grid are to be laid. Ensure the set down is enough for the grid to be laid level with the previously installed grid.
3. Connect the grid to the previously installed grid, starting at the point that will allow the male lugs of the grid to align with the female joints easiest.



4. Spread sandy loam soil over the grid, with each hole in the grid filled with the soil.
5. Lay the turf grass back onto the soil and add new turf grass or seed as appropriate.

Future maintenance

If in the future the wear on the grass from cars becomes too dramatic, we will fill the wear areas with bark chip, stone or something similar. The grid underneath provides stability, drainage and flexibility for what is laid on top.

References [viewed 1 May 2022]

- Geohex Installation Guide: https://ausdrain.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Geohex-Product-Information-and-Installation-Guidelines-2020_LR.pdf

For further information on this topic contact:

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