Considering Artificial Turf? Here's What You Need to Know

Since its installation in 2024, the synthetic field at Ed Eggerer Athletic Park has sparked interest among many Airdrie homeowners. While artificial turf offers low-maintenance and year-round greenery, installing it on your own property involves more than just aesthetics—you'll need to follow the City of Airdrie's Land Use Bylaw to ensure compliance.

Airdrie's Residential Turf Requirements

Under the City's bylaw, artificial turf in residential areas must meet specific standards. According to Section 6.6.6 of the Land Use Bylaw:

> *Where artificial turf is proposed in residential districts, it:*
>
> (a) Shall be complementary to other natural landscaping elements proposed on the subject property and the surrounding area that would, in the opinion of the Development Authority, improve the overall aesthetic of the property and the neighbourhood;
>
> (b) Shall include a thatch layer to provide integrated colour variation to the satisfaction of the Development Authority;
>
> (c) Shall provide an appropriate material weight and varied blade height to ensure a natural aesthetic to the satisfaction of the Development Authority.

In addition, artificial turf must allow for **proper drainage** and be **maintained in good condition**. If turf becomes damaged, worn, or unsightly, the City may require that it be repaired or replaced within 30 days of written notice.

Steps for Installing Artificial Turf at Home

1. **Consult the City First**
   Before purchasing or scheduling installation, contact the City of Airdrie's Planning & Development Department to confirm whether a permit is needed and that your design complies with local standards.

2. **Design a Natural Landscape**
   Combine synthetic turf with other landscaping features—like shrubs, trees, or flowerbeds—to create a balanced and natural look.

3. **Choose Quality Turf**
   Ensure the product includes a realistic **thatch layer** and **varied blade height and texture**. Lighter-weight turf without these features may not meet City approval.

4. **Use a Qualified Installer**
   Look for companies familiar with Airdrie's regulations. Proper installation includes base prep and drainage to prevent water pooling.

5. **Maintain the Area**
   Like real grass, turf still needs periodic upkeep—such as sweeping, rinsing, or removing debris.

Why Compliance Matters

- Maintains a seamless, attractive appearance in Cooper's Crossing
- Ensures proper drainage to prevent pooling or runoff
- Keeps you in good standing with the City of Airdrie
- Avoids the cost of replacing non-compliant installations
- Supports property values and aligns with neighbourhood standards