

Artificial Grass Quality Standards

- De-coding the quality of synthetic lawn -

Artificial grass can be a confusing product to choose. What are the differences in quality between the many types available on the market? Which one should you choose? What parameters inform the quality? Which standards are important? What does the specification terminology actually mean?

The quality of artificial grass is measured by way of four main specifications - **pile height, dtex, gauge & stitch rate** and **backing**.

Before choosing your synthetic lawn, it's important to understand what each of these specifications mean.

Pile Height

Pile height simply refers to the height of each upright blade of grass. This measurement should not include the height of the backing. Some suppliers include the height of the backing in this measurement which is mis-leading and incorrect. At Tile Merchant, the pile height exclusively refers to the height of the blades of grass so that you can accurately choose whether you want long or short blade lawn for your project.

Dtex

Dtex is a unit of measure for the linear mass density of fibres. It refers to the mass of the fibre in grams per 10000m of its length. This measurement is important as it indicates the density of the grass fibres and thus their durability. Synthetic grass with a very low dtex will have a paper-like texture and will not stand up to harsh weather. The higher the dtex, the stronger the grass will be. Typical dtex measurements for artificial grass range from 6600 to 16800.

Gauge & Stitch Rate

The gauge refers to the distance between the lines of grass on the backing. Artificial grass is sewed to the backing in straight lines. The distance separating these lines is important as it influences the aesthetic appeal of the grass. If the gauge is too large, the grass will appear patchy and thin.

The stitch rate refers to how many stitches there are per square metre of grass. The density of the grass is calculated by combining gauge and stitch rate. The density of the grass directly informs the quality – the higher the density, the better the quality.

Backing

Artificial grass is normally backed with a polypropylene woven fabric. It is strong, dimensionally stable and lasts virtually forever. It is important that the backing for artificial grass has high durability as this will affect the stability of the grass. Polypropylene backing can be reinforced using weft threads or by adding extra layers, making it more resilient to a variety of weather conditions.

The quality of artificial grass is also influenced by the adhesive used to secure the grass fibres to the backing. Normally, a latex mixture is used. A high-quality, viscous latex will ensure that the grass blades remain secured to the backing over a long period of time.