

Installation Guidelines

Covertex and Ecotex MulchMat Landscape Fabrics

Be aware that weed control is a game in which you can stay ahead, but never confidently "win." Weeds are just too persistent to ever to give up.

Using a landscape fabric will help prevent buried seeds from becoming full-blown weeds, but they are not intended to kill existing weeds and some of the tougher perennial weeds can be particularly difficult to control. Therefore, ensure the surface is totally free from trees, plants and weeds before laying the landscape fabric.

We repeat landscape fabrics are weed suppressors NOT weed killers and the best performance, and longest lasting results, are more likely with good preparation.

The landscape fabric should be installed over ground that has been smoothed out. If laid over debris, twigs, stones or existing weeds, it could be punctured. The use of hoes to remove weeds; steel rakes to level the ground and, where necessary, suitable systemic weed killers are the best method to achieve this.

When using weed killers follow manufacturer's guidelines and ensure all weeds are eradicated before proceeding.

Also, if you plan on planting in areas where you install the fabric, work in soil amendments and nutrients into to the top 200 to 300mm of soil before installation. If possible, use organic slow release nutrients and compost. You should also test the Ph of the soil and add lime or sulphur in the right amounts if needed.

When using two or more lengths of landscape fabric adjacent to each other, be sure to overlap by at least 150mm. Overlapping sheets of landscape fabric blocks weeds so they don't poke up through the seams.

Trench in perimeter edges in a simple slit trench if possible.

Covertex can be installed with either side facing up. Ecotex MulchMat should be installed preferable with the shiny side facing down.

If it's windy when installing landscape fabric weigh it down with bricks or stones, taking care to not damage the fabric.

Landscape fabric wire fixing pins, or plastic pegs, can be inserted through the landscape fabric to pin it down. Ideally pin at maximum 50cm spacing around perimeter and any overlaps. If necessary, use additional pins over covered area to prevent wind lift, but remember mulch dressing will also help hold the fabric down.

There are two general principles to follow when making incisions in landscape fabric: Keep the incisions as small as possible; and make slits in the landscape fabric, rather than cutting out and removing portions of landscape fabric.

You can use a sharp knife or utility razor to cut the fabric but the best and easiest way is to use a sharp pair of scissors.

Cut an "x" in the fabric the size of your pot or root ball and fold the four flaps under to access the soil for excavation. Have a wheelbarrow or other container nearby, so that you don't have to shovel the excavated soil onto the landscape fabric. The less soil you get on the landscape fabric, the better, to minimize the potential for weed-seed germination later.

After the hole has been dug, install the plant. Fill the excavated soil back in around the plant, tamping down to reduce air pockets, the four flaps of cut landscape fabric can then be positioned tightly against the base of the plant and secured with fixing pins/pegs.

Once the landscape fabric is secured, and any plants installed, apply your mulch on top of it. Using a plastic rake carefully spread it out evenly.

Resist the temptation to think, "If some mulch is good, more is better." Organic mulches such as bark will eventually decompose. Therefore, if a deep layer is applied, you're just inviting weed seeds to germinate on the surface.

Weed seeds can germinate even in stone mulches. As organic matter blows over the stones, it leaches through the spaces between the stones. Eventually, it decomposes, and weed seeds that come into contact with it will germinate in it. The deeper the layer of stones, the more organic matter that will get trapped within.

Dormant seeds: Dock can produce 60,000 seeds/m²