



## ECORASTER®

### Installation Procedures for Grass Applications

**Note:**

**This is to be used as a guideline only and is by no means the only way in which the product can be installed. Site and soil conditions may warrant a change from these procedures. The installer may want to seek the advice of a soils engineer or other professional for their specific site conditions and needs. Please check with the local governing bodies for compliance to local codes.**

Ecoraster can be installed over almost any type of flat sub base but the desired effect can differ greatly from site to site due to the variables in site conditions. This is a typical installation procedure for Ecoraster E30, E50 or S50 when used in conjunction with either sod grass or hydro seeding.

#### **Sub Base Preparation & Installation**

Ensure that:

- Area is flat (not necessarily level) For poor draining areas a 1% slope of sub grade is recommended
- 1. Excavate for sub base, including gravel drainage layer and root zone, and grid as determined by soil and loading requirements. Check with a soils engineer as to the specific requirements for your project.
- 2. Place and compact a gravel drainage layer using a clear or washed gravel of varying size. Size and depth of gravel to be determined by soil and loading requirements.
- 3. The root zone should be a suitable growing medium with good drainage abilities. It should be relatively non-compacting and have some organic additives to allow the grass roots a suitable medium for growth. We recommend that a mixture of medium sand and a good quality soil be used for most conditions. An 80 % sand and 20% soil mix is probably a good choice. Contact a local seed company or speak with a horticulturist or other landscape professional to ensure that the local grass will thrive in this type of soil. Adjust your soil mixture accordingly for local conditions.

4. Most grass varieties need a root zone of 8 to 10 cm. Therefore a base layer of 5cm is required below the bottom of the grid. E50 is 5cm in depth so manholes and catch basins need to be accounted for.
5. After placing the sub base material it should be screeded and compacted once with a vibratory plate compactor. The better the preparation of the sub base the easier the grid can be installed.

### **Ecoraster® Installation**

1. The grid comes preassembled in 3 x 4 sheets. It does not matter which way the sheets are started, so calculate which way will require less partial sheets or cutting.
2. Place a sheet of Ecoraster in the corner of the project with the tabs facing inwards (i.e. tabs in the direction of area to be filled). This placement allows you to set the next sheet of grid down over the exposed tabs. Lay an entire row of Ecoraster along the width of the area first, locking the tabs in place.
3. Go back to the original corner piece and lay a row of Ecoraster along the length of the area, locking the tabs in place. Once this is complete you should have formed an L shaped area of completed grid. The tabs should always be facing in the direction of the area to be filled.
4. Proceed with laying the remaining sheets of Ecoraster down, completing one row before starting the next and making sure that the tabs are locked into place.

#### **Note:**

- *The plastic grid will expand in hot temperatures, therefore, leave an area around curbs, posts, poles and other solid objects ( i.e. don't place the grid in tight to edging or curbs as the space will be filled once the infill material is placed). One to two inches is usually sufficient.*
  - *Cuts, if required, can be made with a reciprocating saw (sawzall, jig saw, skill saw etc) using a general purpose blade.*
  - *Sheets can be separated if needed by placing a dowel or piece of wood (a 2x4 works well) under the grid and stepping on the section adjacent to the dowel.*
5. Once you have completed the install run your plate compactor over the Ecoraster to help settle the sheets into the base.

#### **Note:**

- *Some plate compactors come equipped with a plastic sheet attached to the metal base and are used for paving stone installation. This plastic sheet **does not** work well with the plastic grid as it does not slide on the grid.*
- *Do not run the compactor over the Ecoraster more than once as excessive settling may occur.*

6. The grid can now be filled with the sand soil mixture. Start filling at one end of the area and rake or sweep the fill material into the cells ensuring that each cell is filled. The margin areas around the edges can also be filled at the same time.

**Note:**

- *Fill the areas before driving over them with either truck or skid steer equipment.*
- *Care should be taken when back blading the fill material as not to damage the grid.*
- *Some settling of the fill material may occur so either more fill can be added a few days after or you may slightly over fill the cells if desired.*

7. Hydro seed or place sod as desired.