

# Water - Use It Wisely tells us why artificial turf may not be what you're looking for

**POSTED:** 8:07 AM, Nov 8, 2017

**UPDATED:** 10:01 AM, Nov 8, 2017

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## 6. IT WILL NEED TO BE REPLACED

Eventually, you will need to replace the artificial turf. Some companies claim a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years, while critics estimate closer to 8 years. Take into consideration that the Arizona sun is known to rapidly break down plastics.

## 7. IT'S EXPENSIVE AND UNTESTED

Installation costs can range from \$5 to \$20 a square foot. Consider how willing you are to risk this investment. Research both the company and the product to ensure it is high quality. [The Synthetic Turf council has minimum specifications for turf grass](#)

## 8. IT'S NOT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

It is difficult to recycle and reuse, and while manufacturers promise recyclability, it is likely to end up in a landfill. When components break down, it's possible for the chemicals or plastic materials to escape into the rest of the environment.

## 9. IT DOESN'T SWEAT

Plants don't sweat - they transpire. Artificial turf does neither. Plants have pores on their leaves that take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen (air we breathe) and water molecules. These water molecules evaporate, cooling the environment.

## 10. SERIOUSLY, IT'S NOT A PLANT

Living plants provide more than aesthetic value. They help improve water and air

quality, reduce temperatures, reduce storm water runoff, and provide habitats for animals, insects, bees, and birds.

So.... What should you do instead?

Depending on your goals for your landscape, a functional amount of artificial turf might still work for you. For guidance, consider designing with xeriscape, a creative approach to landscape design with water in mind. [The principles of xeriscape](#) help you plan and maintain a landscape that meets your family's wish list while also conserving water and contributing other environmental benefits. Don't miss Water - Use It Wisely's [10-part video series on transforming your landscape from drab to fab](#) .

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