

What to Look for When Hiring an Artificial Turf Contractor

Getting the Right Installer for Your Synthetic Lawn

When I first started looking into replacing my natural grass with synthetic turf, I had no idea how many decisions were hiding under that green surface. The company I eventually chose made all the difference, and that experience taught me exactly what separates a good Artificial Turf Contractor cen-texartificialturf from a mediocre one. The process is more than just laying down rolls of fake grass. It involves site preparation, base materials, drainage, seaming, infill choices, and a warranty that actually means something.

I spent a few weeks talking to installers, reading forums, and visiting finished yards. What I found surprised me. Some contractors treated turf like carpet you just unroll and staple. The best ones treated it like a landscape system, one that had to handle rain, pet traffic, kids, and the Texas heat. That level of care is exactly what an Artificial Turf Contractor cen-texartificialturf should bring to every job. And if you are in Central Texas, Cen-Tex Artificial Turf is a name that comes up often for exactly that reason.

Why Preparation Matters More Than the Turf Itself

The most expensive turf in the world will fail if the ground underneath is not done right. I saw a neighbor's lawn that looked perfect for about six months. Then dips appeared where the dog ran the same path every day. The seams started to separate, and the whole thing had a wavy look. That contractor had skimmed on the base. He laid the turf directly over a thin layer of sand on top of the existing dirt. No crushed rock. No compaction. No weed barrier worth mentioning.

A proper installation starts with excavation. The contractor removes several inches of native soil. Then they lay down a layer of crushed limestone or decomposed granite. That base gets compacted with a plate compactor until it is hard as concrete. A weed membrane goes over that, and then the turf goes on top. This foundation allows water to drain through the turf and the base, instead of pooling on the surface. It also keeps the turf from shifting or forming ruts.



Cen-Tex Artificial Turf follows that method as a standard practice. When I asked them about drainage, they explained how they slope the base slightly toward the edges or existing drainage points. They also add a layer of silica sand infill to help the blades stand up and to add ballast. That kind of detail is what you pay for when you hire a specialist rather than a general landscaper trying out turf for the first time.

Seaming, Infill, and the Little Things That Matter

The seams between turf rolls are the most common failure point on a synthetic lawn. A poor seam creates a visible line where the two pieces meet. Worse, it can open up over time, letting weeds push through from below. Good contractors use seaming tape and a two-part adhesive

that bonds the edges together. They also stagger the seams so they do not line up in a long straight line across the yard. That makes them less noticeable and stronger.

Infill is another area where corners get cut. Some contractors skip the infill altogether to save time and money. Without infill, the turf blades lie flat and the lawn looks tired. The infill, usually silica sand or a sand-rubber mix, weighs down the turf and helps the blades stand up straight. It also provides a little cushion underfoot. For pet owners, there are antimicrobial infill options that reduce odors. A contractor who offers those choices is one who understands the real-world use of the product.

When I toured a finished project by Cen-Tex Artificial Turf, I noticed they had used a darker green turf with tan thatch mixed in. It looked far more natural than the bright green plastic I had seen elsewhere. That is a small aesthetic choice, but it shows the level of thought they put into matching the look to the house and the neighborhood. That is the difference between a generic lawn and a custom outdoor space.

Water Savings and Durability in the Texas Climate

Central Texas has a love-hate relationship with grass. We get enough rain in spring to make it grow like crazy, then summer hits and watering restrictions come out. A natural lawn in Austin or San Antonio can easily use twenty thousand gallons of water a year. Synthetic turf eliminates that completely. Over a few years, the water savings alone can offset the installation cost. For families with kids and pets, the durability of a well-installed turf lawn means no brown patches, no muddy spots, and no weekly mowing.



But not all turf is built for the Texas sun. Cheap materials fade and get brittle after a few summers. The better turfs use UV-stabilized polyethylene that resists fading and stays soft. A knowledgeable [Artificial Turf Contractor cen-texartificialturf](http://cen-texartificialturf.com) will specify a turf product rated for at least ten years of direct sun exposure. They should also offer a manufacturer warranty that covers fading, delamination, and seam failure. Always ask to see the warranty in writing before you sign anything.

How to Vet a Contractor Before You Commit

Start by asking for references from jobs at least two years old. A new installation can look great for a few months. The problems show up later. Call those references and ask about

drainage, pet odor, seam integrity, and how the contractor handled any issues. A good contractor will stand behind their work and fix problems without a fight.

Check that the contractor carries liability insurance and workers compensation. Turf installation involves heavy rolls, hot asphalt glue, and power tools. If someone gets hurt on your property, you do not want to be on the hook for medical bills. A legitimate contractor will provide proof of insurance without you having to ask twice.

Ask about the specific turf products they use. There are dozens of brands and hundreds of styles. A contractor who only offers one product may be pushing whatever gives them the best margin. A contractor who carries multiple lines can match a turf to your specific needs, whether that is heavy pet traffic, a putting green, or a front yard that needs to look like real grass from the street.

Finally, get a detailed written estimate that breaks down the cost of materials, labor, excavation, base rock, drainage, infill, and any removal of existing grass. If the estimate is a single lump sum with no detail, that is a red flag. You want to know what you are paying for, and you want to be able to compare apples to apples when you get bids from other contractors.



CEN-TEX

ARTIFICIAL TURF

Making the Final Choice

I ended up going with a local specialist who had been in business for over a decade. The yard came out better than I expected. It stays cool enough to walk on barefoot even in August. The dog runs on it without slipping. The drainage works perfectly, even after a two-inch rainstorm. And I have not touched a sprinkler or a lawn mower since the day it was installed.

The upfront cost was higher than some of the other bids I got. But the quality of the base, the warranty, and the attention to detail made it worth it. When you hire an artificial turf contractor,

you are not just buying a product. You are buying a finished outdoor space that should last a decade or more with minimal maintenance. That is worth doing right the first time.

Follow Cen-Tex Artificial Turf on  [Instagram](#)