



**GOLDEN WOLF**  
LANDSCAPE & DESIGN LLC  
*Leading the pack in quality*

## **Your Complete Exterior Home Care Guide**





# Table Of Contents

- 3** - Lawn Mowing
- 4** - Lawn Treatments
- 5** - Pest Control
- 6** - Plant Watering Instructions
- 7** - Sod Watering Instructions
- 8** - Grass Seed Watering & Care Instructions
- 9** - Seasonal Cleanup
- 10** - Mulching
- 11** - Pruning
- 12** - Irrigation
- 13** - Landscape Lighting
- 14** - Paver & Natural Stone
- 15** - Retaining Walls
- 16** - Outdoor Living Structures
- 17** - Fencing
- 18** - Drainage
- 19** - Pool Maintenance
- 20** - Design Ideas
- 21** - Winter Care
- 22** - Contact Us

## TIPS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL

- Proper mowing increases the thickness and health of the lawn, which, in turn, prevents weeds.
- Mowing should be done after the lawn has been given adequate time to dry out and firm up.
- Decide which direction on to mow open areas. For the best look, either mow parallel to the road or driveway, or diagonal to those features. For each subsequent mowing, mow perpendicular to the direction on mowed previously. Mowing directions should be changed weekly.
- Edge beds, driveways, patios, and sidewalks on a weekly to bi-weekly basis by running a weed whacker vertically along edges.
- Mow all grass clippings away from mulch beds, structures, vehicles, and tree rings. Have mower shoot angled away from these areas.
- Severe weather conditions can stress your lawn and affect growth rates. Adjust your mowing schedule accordingly.
- When mowing, no more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the grass blade should be removed at any one time. Most lawns are a combination of several grass types and should be mowed whenever the grass reaches a height of 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches. A cutting height of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches is recommended.
- Sharpen your mower blades frequently to avoid tearing tender grass blades.



## MOWER SIZE

Riding mowers offer convenience, but be careful not to make sharp turns as mower tires will tear up the lawn, especially in wet or extremely dry conditions. Always exercise caution when using a riding mower and do not use them on extreme hillsides.

Push mowers are the better choice for curbed islands, wet areas, extreme hillsides, and detail work.

## TO BAG OR NOT TO BAG

Golden Wolf Landscape & Design recommends using a mulching mower blade and leaving grass clippings on the lawn so long as they are cut fine enough to drop into the lawn out of sight. Clippings do not contribute to thatch and, in fact, help replenish nutrients into your lawn. Only remove clippings if they clump and sit on top of the grass as this deprives your lawn of sunlight and will lead to browning.

Bagging clippings is recommended in small areas such as around windows, vehicles, swimming pools, or other potential hazards; in wet areas where the grass is prone to clumping; and when grass has overgrown.

## BE SAFE

Always wear proper shoes and personal protective equipment when operating mowing machinery





## Aeration & Overseeding

- Aeration is one of the single best things you can do for your lawn. Aeration is the process of punching holes approx. 1-3" deep into the turf allowing for sunlight, water, oxygen, and minerals to flow into the root grasses root layer.
- Aeration is done in the early Spring or early Fall. This is because the cooler temperatures allows the grass to rebound quickly from the aeration process since it can be stressful on your lawn.
- Overseeding after aerating is great for promoting new seed germination to make your lawn thicker and greener. Overseeding during the cooler months of the year allow the seed to be in a more ideal environment compared to hotter summer months.



## Fungus Treatment

Preventative monthly fungus control applications will be made May through September. The most common reason your lawn may get a fungus is due to extended leaf wetness and humidity. Common funguses that these treatments prevents against is Dollar Spot, Brown Patch, Summer Patch, and Red Thread. It is better to be preventative than reactive when dealing with lawn fungus.

## Lime Treatment

Lime will raise the soil PH and make nutrients more readily available to the grassroots. Fertilizer with lime helps raise pH to bring it back to levels where nutrients are more readily available to plants. On the pH scale, your lawn's pH should ideally be between 6.0 and 7.0. New Jersey has naturally acidic soils and fertilizer applications can decrease pH slightly which is why lime is so important.

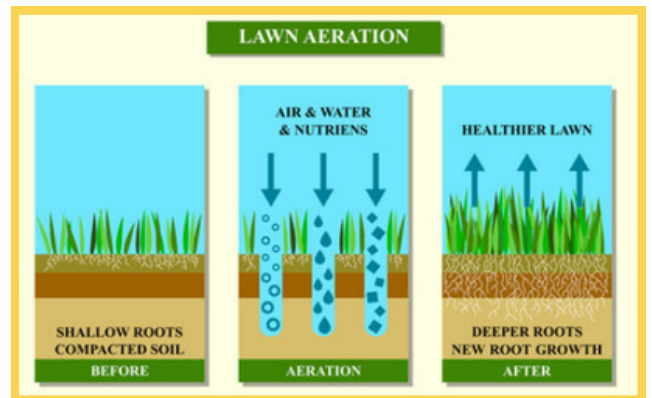
## Fertilizer & Weed Control

Early spring: Crabgrass preventer (unless you intend to overseed your lawn)

Summer through fall: Slow-release, high-nitrogen fertilizer\* with a post emergent weed killer every 90 to 120 days

Plan to apply your fertilizer the day before the forecast is calling for steady rain. Otherwise, you will need to water the lawn immediately after the fertilizer application (unless it is a weed-and-feed, see the package for instructions). This helps dissolve and dilute the fertilizer and prevents it from burning the lawn. Follow the directions on the fertilizer bag and familiarize yourself with your spreader for best results.

*\*Do not use a heavy nitrogen fertilizer during periods of extreme heat and avoid spreading at a full rate during stress conditions (such as drought). Too much fertilizer will cause your lawn to burn out*



## Flea & Tick

To kill and deter fleas and ticks, routine application to the lawn and perimeter is recommended. Application effectiveness lasts approx. 30 days, so applying a minimum of 6 times per year (May-October) is recommended.



## INSECTS

All of Golden Wolf's trees, plants, groundcovers, and flowers are inspected prior to installation. However, pests may become a problem after installation if they are in the vicinity. Certain preventative measures can be taken to eliminate potential pest problems or alleviate them once they appear. Please note: Superficial blemishes on leaf surfaces, edges, or bark are typically not harmful to plants nor require treatment.

Spraying horticultural oil on trees and shrubs in early spring before growth begins but when the temperatures remain consistently above 45° F will eliminate scale, mites, and other overwintering insects. Spray again two weeks later and following manufacturer's instructions. Scale-infested plants should be sprayed again in late spring (May/June) to control any scale that may be hatching.

## GRUB CONTROL

Another method to discourage rodents is to remove their food supply. Grubs live in lawns and landscape beds and are a food source for moles, voles, skunks, birds, and raccoons. There are several granular and liquid grub prevention products on the market. Optimal application dates vary by product but are usually between April to July 15. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for best results

## ANIMAL/RODENT

If animals such as deer, rabbits, or groundhogs are prevalent in your area, we recommend treating your plants with an animal/rodent repellent spray in mid to late-December to prevent animals from feeding on your landscape investment. Creating a physical barrier such as a burlap or silt fence around the base of your trees and shrubs can be effective. Or consider using one of the ultrasonic and electric products currently on the market.



## Trees

- Trees should receive 5-10 gallons of water every day for the first two weeks. For weeks two to four, decrease watering to 4-5 times per week still with the same amount of water. After the first month, you can decrease the frequency of watering to 2-3 times per week adjusting for any dry periods or very rainy seasons. For month two and three water 1-2 times per week adjusting for outside conditions.
- If your tree(s) have water bags on the base, please monitor them every few days to a week and fill up as needed. Tree bags should be kept on the tree(s) for two to three months. Tree bags **MUST** be removed before Winter and the ground freezing.
- If your tree(s) has stakes with strings installed, please keep on for 6 months minimum. Stakes may be needed to be kept on longer (up to 2 years), but before removing them, please contact Golden Wolf to confirm if they can be taken off or kept on longer.

## Shrubs

- Shrubs should receive 2-5 gallons of water every day for the first two weeks. For weeks two to four, decrease watering to 4-5 times per week still with the same amount of water. After the first month, you can decrease the frequency of watering to 2-3 times per week adjusting for any dry periods or very rainy seasons. For month two and three water 1-2 times per week adjusting for outside conditions.

## Perennials

- Perennials should get approx. 30 seconds of water once a day for the first week. For weeks two and three, reduce watering to 3-5 times per week depending on weather conditions. For weeks 4+, water 2-3 times per week, more so during hot and dry periods. It is also possible to over-water, so before watering again, stick your finger a couple of inches into the soil, (making sure you go through the mulch), if the soil is wet - do not water.

## Helpful Tips

- Once the plants are established, once-a-week watering should be sufficient. From installation to year 2, monitor your plants during the heat of the summer, they may need to be watered during hot or dry periods.
- NOTE: Just because it rains do not assume you do not have to water. We have to receive at least one inch of rainfall to skip watering. Watering is best done in the early morning or the evening.
- Please be sure to water the roots of the plant, not the leaves. The roots are responsible for absorbing the water, not the leaves.
- A slow and steady trickling stream of water is best when watering. Do not turn your hose on full blast and aim it on the roots. That can damage the plant and will lead to little or no watering being absorbed by the roots.
- Please note that plants can easily be overwatered, suffocating the roots and killing them.
- Check the soil after the first few waterings to determine if the method or timing needs adjusted. It is important to routinely check if plant materials need more or less watering throughout the growing season.
- Avoid shooting jets of water directly at a plant. This can damage a plant, potentially causing it to defoliate. Water spots on foliage subject to direct sunlight may cause burn marks on the plant.
- Please note: Your failure to appropriately water any plant materials will void your warranty.

## When?

- Be sure to water lawn in the early morning or evening

## What To Use?

- Set up a portable sprinkler(s) that will cover the entire area that was sodded. If you would like, set up times to allow for the watering process to be automated providing for easier care.
  - This only applies to lawns that do not have an irrigation system

## How Much?

- A general rule of thumb is to make sure the new sod is getting approx. 1" of water per day for the first week depending on the season, weather, and temperature . If the sod is spongy to the step, then it is watered enough.
- Please make sure that the soil is also wet too, not just the top of the grass. A tip is to take a long screwdriver and stick it in the soil. If it goes in easy and it is moist, then you are watering enough. If it is hard to stick in and it is dry soil, then you are watering too little.
- On very hot Summer days, running the sprinkler(s) a few times a day to ensure the sod does not dry out is important. If the sod dries out, it can shrink, turn brown, and can die.
- After the first week, you can decrease the frequency of watering per day and increase the number of days in-between watering cycles. Having fewer yet longer watering cycles will help the roots of the sod take.
- After the second week, reduce watering time per occurrence and skip a day between watering if sod is NOT drying out.
- By week four, you can be watering 1-2 times every other day. After week four, your new lawn should be good with watering every 2-3 days.

## When To Mow?

- Your sod should be good to mow approx. the end of week 3. If your lawn reaches over 3.5", mow off a third of the length even if it has not been 3 weeks. Do not mow the grass less than 2" on the first few mowing's. Be extremely careful when mowing the first few times to prevent damage.
- Regular lawn mowing on a weekly schedule after the third week will allow for the healthiest lawn along with allowing the roots to grow deeper into the soil. NEVER mow more than 1/3 of the grass blade.

## Helpful Tips

- When watering, for the first week, please try to stay off the lawn (including pets) to allow for the sod to fully root into the soil.
- NOTE: Just because it rains do not assume you do not have to water. We have to receive at least one inch of rainfall to skip watering.
- After the first month of the sod being installed, a proper fertilizer, weed, grub, and insect control is recommended to sustain the quality of the turf.





# Grass Seed Watering & Care Guide

## **When?**

- Be sure to water lawn in the early morning or evening

## **What To Use?**

- Set up a portable sprinkler(s) that will cover the entire area that was sodded. If you would like, set up times to allow for the watering process to be automated providing for easier care.
  - This only applies to lawns that do not have an irrigation system

## **How Much?**

- It is best to water the grass seedlings 2 to 3 times a day for about 5 to 10 minutes each time. This way you replace any water that has evaporated without oversaturation. It amounts to 3-4 inches of water per week
- Once the grass seeds germinate, you should water for a longer period once a day. The frequency of watering should slowly reduce to a long soak of about 40 minutes on alternate days then cut down to 2-3 days a week. The aim of watering after germination is to assist the grass to form deeper roots. For this, less frequent watering is required.
- Keep careful track of the weather. Showers and heavy rain will tell you how often to water grass seed. Skip the watering session after rains.

## **When To Mow?**

- Your grass should be good to mow approx. the end of week 3. If your lawn reaches over 3.5", mow off a third of the length even if it has not been 3 weeks. Do not mow the grass less than 2" on the first few mowing's. Be extremely careful when mowing the first few times to prevent damage.
- Regular lawn mowing on a weekly schedule after the third week will allow for the healthiest lawn along with allowing the roots to grow deeper into the soil. NEVER mow more than 1/3 of the grass blade.

## **Helpful Tips**

- When watering, for the first few weeks, please try to stay off the lawn (including pets) to allow for the grass to germinate.
- NOTE: Just because it rains do not assume you do not have to water. We have to receive at least one inch of rainfall to skip watering.

## **STRAW AND STRAW NETTING CARE**

Seeded lawn installations include a top coating of straw or, more often, straw netting. This topdressing helps combat natural elements, such as wind, water, and animals, that can shift seeds and may lead to bare patches. It also retains moisture, helping to prevent your seedlings from drying out. Straw netting is preferred over straw because it is held to the ground with landscape staples, making it unlikely to blow away in heavy wind.

Little care is needed for either material. Straw will break down on its own, as will straw netting as it is photo-biodegradable, meaning sunlight will break it down over time. Do not remove your straw netting, as this could tear up new grass seedlings and damage your yard. If you notice any areas where the netting has come loose, use a sharp knife to remove the raised areas as these could pose a hazard when mowing. It is also acceptable to leave sod staples in your yard as they are thin and easily covered by your new lawn.

## Spring Cleanup

**Pruning and Trimming:** Prune trees and shrubs to remove dead or damaged branches and encourage new growth. Trim back overgrown hedges and bushes to maintain shape and promote healthy foliage. Prune back any winter damage.

**Lawn Care:** Rake and remove any remaining debris, such as leaves and branches, from the lawn. Start fertilizing your lawn in March or April to provide the nutrients it needs to be thick, healthy, and green.

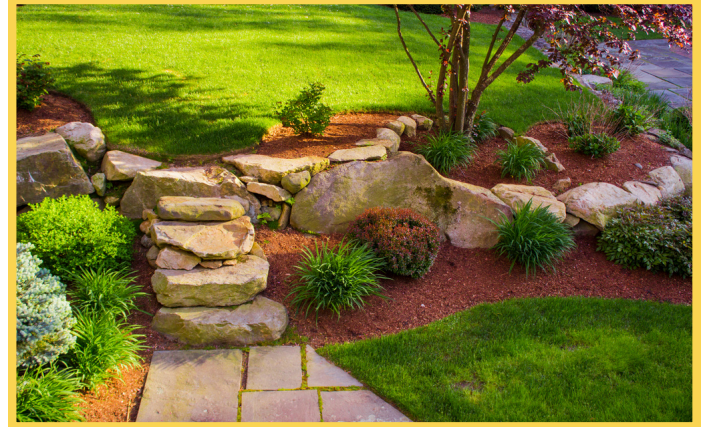
**Weed Control:** Remove weeds from garden beds, pathways, and other landscaped areas. Consider applying mulch to suppress weed growth and retain moisture in the soil.

**Mulching and Edging:** Apply fresh mulch to garden beds to help retain moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the appearance of landscaping. Edge flower beds, pathways, and lawn borders to create clean, defined lines and prevent grass encroachment.

**Inspect and Maintain Irrigation Systems:** Check irrigation systems for leaks, clogs, or damage, and repair as necessary. Adjust sprinkler heads to ensure even coverage and efficient water distribution.

**Inspect and Clean Gutters:** Clean gutters and downspouts of debris to prevent clogs and water damage to your home's exterior. Ensure that gutters are securely attached and properly sloped for drainage.

**Pest Control:** Check for signs of pests, such as insects or rodents, around your home and garden. Take appropriate measures to control and prevent infestations.



## Fall Cleanup

Determine which services are necessary based on the condition of your yard. Common fall cleanup services include:

**Leaf removal:** Clearing leaves from your lawn, flower beds, and pathways.

**Pruning and trimming:** Trimming back bushes, shrubs, and trees to promote healthy growth. Prune dead or diseased branches from trees and shrubs to promote healthy growth. Remove fallen branches and debris from around trees to prevent potential hazards.

**Lawn mowing and edging:** Giving your lawn a final mow and clean edge before winter. Fall is also a great time to aerate and overseed your lawn.

**Bed cleanup:** Removing dead plants, weeds, and debris from flower beds and garden areas.

**Mulching:** Applying fresh mulch to protect plants and soil during winter.

**Gutter cleaning:** Clearing gutters of leaves and debris to prevent clogging and water damage.

**Winterizing:** Preparing irrigation systems, outdoor faucets, and other features for cold weather.

**Hardscape Maintenance:** Clean and store outdoor furniture and garden tools to protect them from winter damage. Power wash decks, patios, and walkways to remove dirt, mold, and mildew buildup.



## **MULCH**

Decorative mulches serve many purposes, including inhibiting weed growth, helping trees and plants retain moisture, insulating roots from extreme weather conditions, suppress erosion, and providing a uniform, clean appearance.

Golden Wolf recommends top dressing all existing plant beds with about 1 inch of hardwood mulch on a yearly basis to maintain a consistent mulch depth. This should sufficiently prevent weeds from spreading when used in combination with a pre-emergent weed control. The mulch should taper in depth from 2 to 3 inches to just enough to cover the root zone below the tree or plant. Avoid allowing mulch to come into contact with trunks, stems, and branches.

As bark mulch decomposes, it adds a rich compost to your tree and landscape beds. It also serves to conserve moisture. Please note: Even this type of mulch can build up if not exposed to rainfall. If this occurs, use a flat rake to remove any areas of build-up.

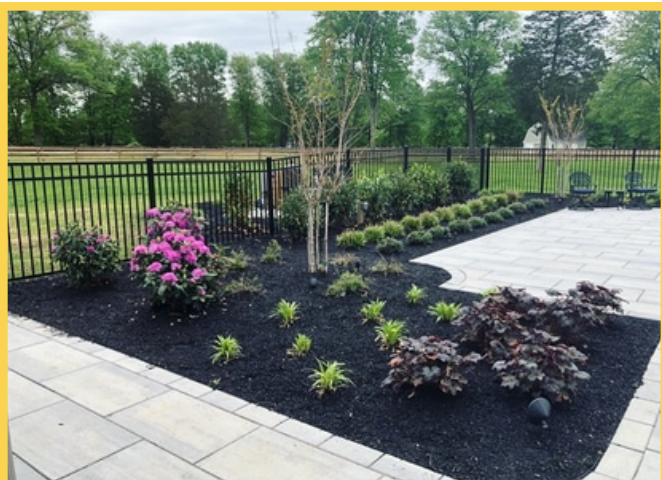
Avoid mulches that consist of artificially colored ground up wood and scrap pallets. These types of mulches do not decompose as quickly and build up thick layers in plant beds, suffocating root systems and depriving them of adequate moisture.

## **WEED CONTROL IN LANDSCAPE BEDS**

Determine the best product for your situation. Pre-emergents are best applied in the early spring to prevent annual weeds from germinating. A granular pre-emergent broadleaf weed control should be applied between early April and the first of May, or after a new planting installation when the soil and mulch are freshly disturbed.

Small weeds should be sprayed using a liquid post emergent weed control and following manufacturer's instructions.

For weeds above 4 inches tall, pull them by using a hand tool to dig up the root. Take care to dig up as much of the root as possible. Leaving roots behind may allow the weed to regenerate itself.





Proper pruning is an important part of landscape maintenance. Not only does pruning shape a plant for aesthetic purposes, it also provides a means to control growth and eliminate structural problems such as overlapping or crossed branches.

## **SIMPLE PRUNING RULES**

- Clean, inspect, and sharpen all pruning tools before use. Scour your tools with a natural cleaning powder such as baking soda or a scrubbing cleanser. Rinse your tools thoroughly before drying with a clean rag. Wipe blades with vegetable or grapeseed oil to keep their mechanics lubricated.
- Select the proper tool for the job. Take care not to strain yourself nor the tool you are using. Hand pruners: Perennials and twig stalks less than 1 inch in diameter. Loppers: Branches over 1" in diameter. Hedge shears: Shaping bushes and shrubs. Hand saw: Various purposes, larger shrubs and tree branches.
- Have a definite goal in mind before you start. Step back often to view the plant for desired appearance.
- Prune a little at a time until the desired effect is achieved.
- Prune close to the trunk or branch and try not to leave stubs.
- Make cuts at a 45° angle ½ inch above a bud. When buds are directly opposite on shrubs, cut straight across ½ inch above the base of the buds.

## **CLEANING**

Remove branches that are dead, dying, diseased, crowded, or broken using hand pruners, pole pruners, loppers, and/or hand saws.

## **THINNING**

Remove select branches to increase light and air movement, and to help decrease weight on heavy branches. The natural form of the tree or shrub is retained when performed properly. Hand pruners, loppers, and hand saws are recommended for this method. This method is sometimes referred to as insert pruning



## **TIMING**

### SPRING & EARLY SUMMER FLOWERING PLANTS

Spring and early summer flowering plants bloom on the previous season's bud growth. Therefore, do not prune these plants until after heavy flowering is over and avoid pruning them in the fall. This will allow new growth to harden off and develop flower buds for the following spring. Golden Wolf Landscape & Design Maintenance clients should note that we will occasionally prune these plants before bloom time in a very selective fashion to improve shape, health, and control size. Your Account Representative will discuss with you if this pruning is acceptable.

### LATE SUMMER & AUTUMN FLOWERING PLANTS

Late summer and autumn flowering plants bloom on the current season's growth. These plants prefer to be pruned in the late fall after flowering, or early winter.

### REPEAT BLOOMERS

Some varieties of shrubs have been hybridized to bloom continuously from both current and last season's growth. Pruning is recommended for these varieties to control shape after their prime blooming period is over.

# Irrigation Guide

Irrigation systems make watering your landscape easier, more efficient, and less time consuming. They are installed in zones (a group of irrigation heads or emitters) that are generally separated into 3 categories: planting bed, seasonal container, and lawn zones. Due to site variations and fluctuating weather conditions, there are no true 'set it and forget it' irrigation settings. The times listed below are guidelines and should be adjusted according to your specific landscape needs. Under certain conditions, weekly adjustments may be necessary.

## SPRINKLER DEVICES

There are 3 main sprinkler devices that can be used in a sprinkler system.

- 1. Rotors Heads:** shoot a direct stream
- 2. Spray Heads:** spray a fan-like pattern
- 3. Drip Lines:** saturates the soil with a buried hose

## ZONES & RUN TIMES

**Rotor Head Zone:** 12 to 30 minutes depending on the amount of shade, soil conditions, and drainage.

**Spray Head Zones:** 5 to 15 minutes depending on the amount of shade, soil conditions, and drainage.

**Drip Line Zones:** 30 to 90 minutes depending of the amount of shade, soil conditions, drainage, and the length of the runs.

## SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS

Golden Wolf recommends using the seasonal adjustment feature on the controller to make needed adjustments for the various seasons to avoid both under watering and overwatering plants and lawns. The following recommendations are for established plants - those older than 2 years. Newer plantings require much more frequent watering.

LAWN ZONES		
MONTH	SEASONAL ADJUST	SUGGESTED WEEKLY CYCLE
January	Timer off	Off
February	Timer off	Off
March	Timer off	Off
April	70%	Once every 4 days*
May	100%	Once every 4 days
June	100%	Once every 3 days
July	175%	Once every 3 days
August	175%	Once every 3 days
September	100%	Once every 4 days
October	70%	Once every 4 days*
November	Timer off	Off
December	Timer off	Off

\*weather dependent

BED ZONES		
MONTH	SEASONAL ADJUST	SUGGESTED WEEKLY CYCLE
January	Timer off	Off
February	Timer off	Off
March	Timer off	Off
April	100%	Once every 7 days*
May	100%	Once every 7 days
June	100%	Once every 4 days
July	175%	Once every 4 days
August	175%	Once every 4 days
September	100%	Once every 4 days
October	100%	Once every 7 days*
November	Timer off	Off
December	Timer off	Off

\*weather dependent

## WINTERIZATION

Golden Wolf recommends that irrigation systems get blown out in the fall to remove the majority of the water before temperatures get below freezing. This ensures that the small amount of water that remains has adequate room to expand when it freezes without causing pipes to break. If a system does not get blown out, the remaining water will not have enough room to expand, causing pipes to rupture and leading to costly repairs. If you intend to winterize your irrigation system yourself, use an air compressor set to 50 to 70 psi. Please note: The smaller the air compressor tank size, the longer this process will take.

Systems that are blown out in the fall will need checked and restarted in the spring once temperatures stay above freezing.

## Adjusting Fixtures

Over the course of the year, some fixtures may shift, move, or fall over. This can be due to several variables such as wind, animals, or heavy snow to name a few.

At least once per year, ideally in the Spring, Golden Wolf recommends to adjust or reposition the lighting fixtures, if needed, to make sure the fixtures are illuminating the intended area they were originally installed to highlight. If any fixtures do need to be adjusted, they can be done easily with a rubber hammer, a hand shovel, and some elbow grease.

## Replacing Bulbs

All new installs performed typically contain LED bulbs. These LED bulbs are extremely efficient, drawing little energy, and also last a very long time. You can expect a LED bulb for landscape lighting to last several years.

In the Spring, we recommend replacing and bulbs that may have died. This can be a simple task if following manufacturer specifications, but you can always defer to your landscape contractor for support.



## Checking Wires

With low voltage landscape lighting systems, the fixtures are connected to the power source, the transformer, through wire. Over time, these wires can be damaged by animals or get damaged if you do not know where specifically they may lie. Typically, landscape lighting wire is buried at least several inches below the ground.

If you ever notice a connection is bad, a light not working, or wires accidentally cut, this would require a repair service. Due to the lighting being low voltage, you do not have to be a licensed electrician to work with it. It is safe to work around due to it being low voltage.

If there were to be a repair needed, please contact your Account Representative to have it addressed and back working in no time!

## Changing Timer Settings

Depending on the specific times you have with your system, you may need to change the timer settings. This is typically done once or twice per year seasonally. Reason being is due to the changing seasons and daylight savings time, you may want to have your lighting system come on and turn off at different times.

Depending on the type of timers you have, digital or mechanical, the way you go about adjust the on and off time will vary. You can always contact your Account Representative to assist with this or call the manufacturer directly.

If you have a photocell timer, there will be no need to adjust the timer settings. This is because the photocell automatically turn your lighting system on and off when it gets dark. If you want, you can always change your timer to a photocell giving you a hands off approach to modify your outdoor lighting settings.



## NEW INSTALLATION

Concrete, clay, and natural stone pavers (bluestone, sandstone, limestone) require minimal maintenance to provide you with years of enjoyment of your patio, sidewalk, or driveway.

Within the first month after installation, you may notice some sand residue on the paver surface or a small amount of sealing in the paver joints. This is normal. Sealing in the joints may be corrected by adding some of the same jointing sand that was used on the original installation (polymeric sand or Easy Joint are the most commonly used). This could take more than one application, but is not typical.

NOTE: Polymeric sand is typically used with joints no larger than one inch. Easy Joint is also a type of polymeric jointing sand used with joints one inch or larger. Please note: Both kinds of jointing sand require a very specific application process. If the process is not followed, damage to the pavers is possible. Also, any type of jointing sand will require some maintenance after installation due to New Jersey's freeze/thaw cycle.

## SEALING

For most paver and natural stone products, sealing the surface is NOT recommended. Precast manufactured pavers, such as Techo Bloc, can be sealed to enhance or deepen the color, but this is not necessary. Please note: Once you choose to seal the pavers, you will need to re-apply the sealer following the manufacturer's recommendations.

## SNOW REMOVAL & DE-ICING

To remove snow from your pavers, use a plastic shovel or plastic blade protectors on your snow plow or blower.

Please note: Any de-icing product has the potential to damage paver material. However, if you do plan to de-icer your pavers, two types of products are recommended:

- Sodium Chloride (NaCl) - for use in temperatures down to 20° F
- Calcium Chloride (CaCl<sub>2</sub>) - for use in temperatures between 20° F to -2° F

Other recommendations when using de-icing products:

- Use the minimum amount to melt the snow and ice.
- Excess de-icer should be swept up and removed.
- Avoid rock salt or magnesium-based products as they are very aggressive and will cause damage to hardscape surfaces.

## ROUTINE MAINTENANCE & CLEANING

Concrete and clay pavers are porous and, along with natural stone, can be stained and/or weathered with age. Routine sweeping is recommended, especially in high traffic areas. If a deeper clean is desired, you may need to carefully use a pressure washer.

There are a few general guidelines when pressure washing your patio. Do NOT use the high power nozzle setting/attachment with your pressure washer as this will etch the surface. Always keep the nozzle at an angle and at least 12 inches away from the surface, using the fan nozzle setting/attachment. Be gentle around joints so as not to dislodge too much jointing sand.

Cleaning solutions are another option for cleaning your patio. Check your local retail store for general cleaning solutions and specialized ones designed for oil and grease or efflorescence. A mixture of 20% dish soap to 80% water applied with a soft bristle brush can also be used. Always be gentle with the jointing sand. Do NOT use a wire brush as pieces of wire can become dislodged promoting rust and/or scratch the paver surface.

With either process, re-applying jointing sand could be required once the surface and joints are completely dry. Please note: Cleanliness and color rejuvenation are not guaranteed through any process. The age of your product can affect the color.

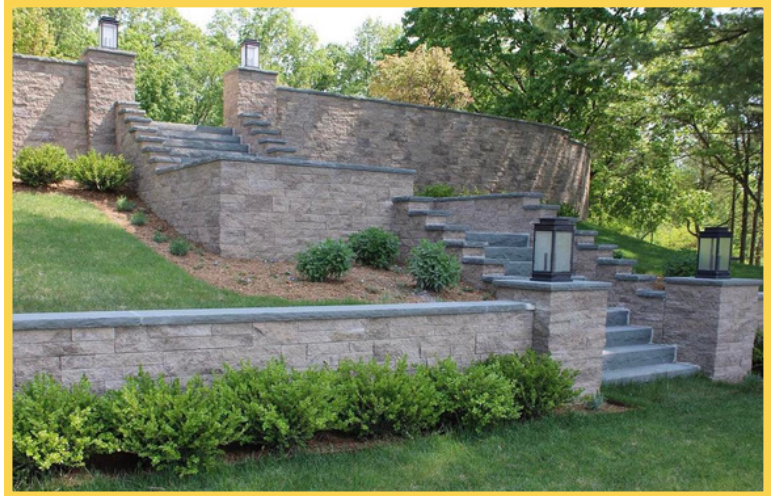
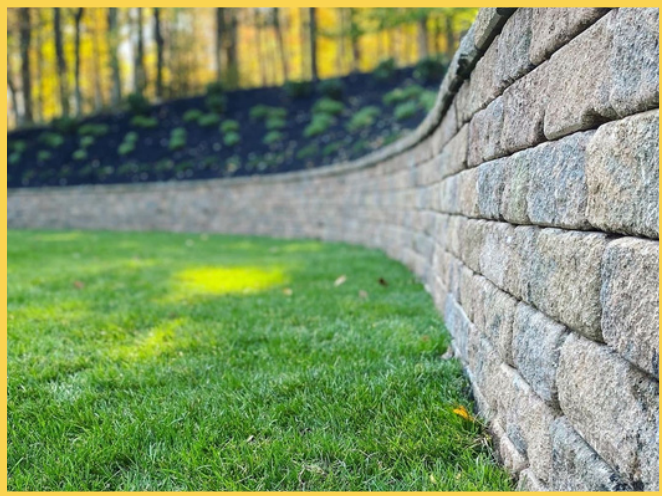


## WEED PREVENTION & TREATMENT

The best way to prevent weed growth is to use polymeric sand between paver joints. However, not all dry laid pavers have polymeric sand joints. In this instance, a pre or post emergent herbicide is recommended for weed control. Test a small area of the paver to ensure it does not stain and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

# Retaining Wall Guide

Retaining walls can be a valuable addition to a homeowner's property, providing structural support and aesthetic appeal. Proper care and maintenance are essential to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of retaining walls. An inspection is recommended to be done 1x per year in the Spring.



- **Regular Inspections:** Conduct visual inspections of your retaining wall at least once a year, ideally before and after the rainy season. Look for signs of damage, such as cracks, bulges, leaning, or erosion around the base.
- **Clear Drainage:** Ensure that the drainage system behind the retaining wall is clear of debris, such as leaves, soil, or rocks. Clogged drains can lead to water buildup, increasing pressure on the wall and potentially causing damage.
- **Repair Cracks and Damage:** Promptly repair any cracks or damage to the retaining wall to prevent further deterioration. Small cracks can be filled with appropriate sealants or patching materials, while larger damage may require professional assistance.
- **Control Vegetation:** Keep vegetation, such as grass, weeds, or shrubs, trimmed and away from the retaining wall. Plant roots can exert pressure on the wall and contribute to its instability. Additionally, vegetation can trap moisture, leading to increased risk of erosion.
- **Monitor Soil Erosion:** Keep an eye on soil erosion around the base of the retaining wall. If you notice signs of erosion, such as exposed roots or bare soil, take steps to address the issue promptly. Consider adding mulch or ground cover plants to stabilize the soil.
- **Avoid Overloading:** Do not place heavy objects or structures near the retaining wall, as they can exert excessive pressure and compromise its integrity. Additionally, avoid driving heavy machinery or equipment near the wall.
- **Address Water Issues:** Ensure proper grading and drainage around the retaining wall to divert water away from the structure. Install downspouts, gutters, or French drains to prevent water from pooling behind the wall, as excessive moisture can weaken the soil and compromise the wall's stability.
- **Retaining Wall Cleaning:** Periodically clean the retaining wall to remove dirt, mold, mildew, or stains. Use a mild detergent and water solution, along with a stiff brush, to scrub the surface gently. Avoid using harsh chemicals or pressure washers, as they can damage the wall's surface.

Any of the below landscape features can be constructed of Azek/Timber Tech, cedar, vinyl, or aluminum, each with their own suggested maintenance methods. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations. This information should be used as a general guideline only.

## AZEK/TIMBER TECH DECKING

To clean an Azek or Timber Tech deck, follow the manufacturer's cleaning and care instructions. It is also recommended you first test any cleaner on an inconspicuous area to make sure it does not harm the surface.

- Do NOT use abrasive cleaners as they can dull the surface of new deck boards.
- Always clean smaller, manageable areas and rinse often. Do NOT allow cleaner or soap residue to dry to the surface before thoroughly rinsing.
- Do NOT use composite deck cleaners on Azek/ Timber Tech decking. These products are a polymer and not a wood/plastic composite.

## AZEK TRIM

For non-painted surfaces: To clean Azek trim, use a pressure washer held at an angle and at least 12 inches away from the surface using the fan nozzle setting/attachment. Test the setting to ensure it will not damage the board surface. A medium nylon bristle brush can be used if the board is not coming clean through pressure washing alone.

For painted surfaces: Consult with your paint manufacturer for instructions on cleaning painted trim

## ALUMINUM

Keeping aluminum structures clean is as simple as giving it a quick hose-down. In the case of stubborn dirt and debris, use a mixture of water and dish soap applied with a non-abrasive sponge. Then rinse and allow the structure to dry. For best results, clean aluminum structures on a cool, overcast day and do not allow the soap mixture to dry on the structure. Always be sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendations to avoid inadvertently damaging your structure.

## VINYL

Vinyl structures, especially white ones, can benefit from once yearly cleaning. Using a nylon bristle brush and a garden hose, gently scrub and rinse to get rid of loose dirt. For heavier dirt, use a simple cleaning solution with a soft brush and/or cloth while being sure to follow any manufacturer's recommendations. Always test any cleaning solutions on an inconspicuous section of vinyl to ensure it will not damage your structure

## CEDAR

Any exposed cedar, if left untreated, will weather to a gray color with age. Golden Wolf recommends using a good quality wood cleaner on a regular basis following the manufacturer's instructions. Take care not to scrub over the wood as excessive scrubbing could scratch the surface. Follow the wood cleaner with a plain water wipe down. Use a rag to sop up any excess water and allow the wood to dry.

To maintain the beauty of the wood and to minimize warping, cracking, and splitting, we recommend you also apply a water-repellent sealer. These items can be purchased at a local retail store and follow the directions on the container.





# Fence Care Guide

Fences can be a valuable addition to a homeowner's property, providing structural support and aesthetic appeal. Proper care and maintenance are essential to ensure the longevity and effectiveness of retaining walls. An inspection is recommended to be done 1x per year in the Spring.



- **Regular Inspections:** Schedule routine inspections of your fence to check for any signs of damage, wear, or deterioration. Look for loose or damaged boards, posts, hinges, latches, or any other components.
- **Cleaning:** Regularly clean your fence to remove dirt, grime, mold, and mildew buildup. Depending on the material of your fence (wood, vinyl, metal, etc.), you may use different cleaning methods and solutions.
- **Repairs:** Promptly address any issues you find during inspections. Repair or replace damaged or broken components to prevent further damage and maintain the structural integrity of the fence.
- **Staining or Sealing (for Wood Fences):** If you have a wood fence, consider staining or sealing it every few years to protect it from moisture, UV rays, and other environmental factors. This helps extend the lifespan of the wood and keeps it looking new.
- **Painting (if applicable):** If your fence is painted, touch up any areas where the paint is chipped or peeling to prevent rust or rot from developing.
- **Trimming Vegetation:** Keep plants, bushes, and trees trimmed away from the fence to prevent them from leaning on or damaging it. Overgrown vegetation can also trap moisture, leading to rot or mold growth.
- **Proper Drainage:** Ensure that the area around your fence has proper drainage to prevent water from pooling or collecting near the base of the fence, which can cause damage over time.
- **Avoiding Harsh Chemicals:** Be cautious when using chemicals or herbicides near your fence, as some may cause damage to certain materials or finishes.
- **Winter Preparation:** In colder climates, take precautions to protect your fence from winter weather conditions, such as snow, ice, and freeze-thaw cycles. Clear snow away from the fence and inspect for any damage caused by freezing temperatures.
- **Security Measures:** Check and maintain any security features on your fence, such as locks, hinges, or alarms, to ensure they are functioning properly.

Water management is vital to ensure the success and integrity of your property. Being able to have a routine inspection schedule for your homes drainage will allow you to stay on top of any issues that may arise as well as keep your pre-existing drainage system operating as intended.

- **Clean Gutters and Downspouts Regularly:** Ensure that gutters and downspouts are free from debris such as leaves, branches, and dirt. Clogged gutters can cause water to overflow, leading to water damage to your home's siding, foundation, and landscaping.
- **Inspect and Repair Gutters and Downspouts:** Check for any signs of damage or leaks in your gutters and downspouts. Repair or replace any damaged sections promptly to prevent water from seeping into your home's exterior.
- **Install Gutter Guards:** Consider installing gutter guards to help prevent debris from accumulating in your gutters while still allowing water to flow freely. There are various types of gutter guards available, so choose one that best suits your needs and budget.
- **Grade Your Landscape Away from the Foundation:** Ensure that the ground around your home slopes away from the foundation. Proper grading helps to divert water away from your home, reducing the risk of water seepage into the basement or crawl space.
- **Maintain Proper Drainage Around Foundation:** Check the condition of your foundation and ensure that the area around it is properly graded and free from obstructions. Installing French drains or other drainage systems can help redirect water away from the foundation.
- **Inspect and Maintain Sump Pump:** If your home has a sump pump, inspect it regularly to ensure it is functioning correctly. Test the pump by pouring water into the sump pit and verifying that it activates and pumps water away from the foundation.
- **Keep Drains Clear:** Ensure that all exterior drains, such as driveway drains and window wells, are clear of debris and functioning correctly. Regularly remove any obstructions to prevent water buildup and flooding.
- **Direct Downspouts Away from the Foundation:** Extend downspouts to direct water at least several feet away from the foundation. You can use downspout extensions or splash blocks to achieve proper water dispersal.
- **Inspect for Signs of Water Damage:** Regularly inspect your home's exterior for signs of water damage, such as peeling paint, mold growth, or water stains. Address any issues promptly to prevent further damage and costly repairs.
- **Consult a Professional:** If you're unsure about the condition of your home's exterior drainage system or if you notice any significant issues, consider consulting a professional landscaper or drainage specialist such as Golden Wolf Landscape & Design. They can assess your drainage needs and recommend appropriate solutions to keep your home protected from water damage.



# Pool Maintenance Guide

Maintaining a pool can be quite a task, but with proper guidance and regular upkeep, it can be manageable. Here's a general guide to help you maintain your pool throughout the year:

## Weekly Maintenance

- **Skimming and Cleaning:** Use a skimmer net to remove leaves, bugs, and debris floating on the surface of the water. Also, clean out the skimmer and pump baskets to ensure proper circulation.
- **Brushing:** Brush the walls and floor of the pool to remove algae and other buildup. Pay attention to corners and areas with poor circulation.
- **Vacuumping:** Use a pool vacuum to clean the bottom of the pool, especially in areas where the brush may not reach.
- **Check Water Chemistry:** Test the water pH, chlorine levels, alkalinity, and calcium hardness regularly using a test kit. Adjust chemicals as needed to maintain balanced water chemistry.

## Monthly Maintenance

- **Shock Treatment:** Shock your pool with chlorine or non-chlorine shock to kill bacteria, algae, and other contaminants that regular chlorine may not eliminate.
- **Inspect Equipment:** Check pool equipment such as pumps, filters, and heaters for any signs of damage or malfunction. Clean or replace filters as necessary.

## Seasonal Maintenance

- **Opening the Pool (Spring):** Remove the pool cover, clean it, and store it properly. Clean and vacuum the pool thoroughly, and balance the water chemistry. Check all equipment for proper functioning.
- **Regular Maintenance (Summer):** Continue with the weekly maintenance routine, monitor water chemistry, and adjust chemicals as needed. Keep an eye on water level and top up as necessary.
- **Closing the Pool (Fall):** Clean the pool thoroughly, balance the water chemistry, and lower the water level. Winterize the pool equipment, cover the pool securely to prevent debris accumulation, and protect it from freezing temperatures.
- **Off-Season Maintenance (Winter):** Periodically check the pool cover for damage and ensure it's securely in place. Remove any debris that accumulates on the cover. Check pool equipment for any signs of damage.

## Additional Services

- **Professional Cleaning:** Consider hiring a professional pool cleaning service for deep cleaning, especially if you're unable to maintain the pool regularly.
- **Equipment Maintenance:** Schedule regular maintenance checks for pool equipment such as pumps, filters, and heaters to ensure they're functioning optimally.
- **Leak Detection:** If you notice a drop in water level that's not due to evaporation, consider hiring a professional to detect and repair any leaks in the pool.
- **Winterization and Opening Services:** If you're not comfortable with winterizing or opening your pool yourself, consider hiring a professional service to handle these tasks.



Remember, consistent maintenance is key to keeping your pool clean, safe, and enjoyable throughout the year. Always follow manufacturer guidelines for pool equipment maintenance and chemical usage, and consider consulting with a professional if you're unsure about any aspect of pool maintenance.



# Design Ideas

When designing a landscape or hardscape project professionally, there are several key considerations to keep in mind to ensure the success of the project. Here are some top professional design considerations:

**Needs and Preferences:** Understand your needs, preferences, and lifestyle requirements. Engage in thorough discussions and consultations to gather information about their desired outdoor experience, budget, maintenance expectations, and any specific requests.

**Site Analysis and Assessment:** Conduct a comprehensive site analysis to evaluate the existing conditions, including topography, soil composition, drainage patterns, microclimates, existing vegetation, and any site constraints or opportunities. This analysis informs the design process and helps identify appropriate design solutions.

**Design Principles and Elements:** Apply fundamental design principles, such as balance, proportion, scale, rhythm, unity, and focal points, to create a cohesive and visually appealing outdoor space. Integrate various design elements, including lines, forms, textures, colors, and patterns, to achieve the desired aesthetic and functionality.

**Functionality and Circulation:** Prioritize functionality and circulation within the outdoor space to ensure ease of movement and usability. Design pathways, transitions, and gathering areas that facilitate comfortable navigation and accommodate the intended activities and traffic flow.

**Zoning and Spatial Organization:** Organize the outdoor space into distinct zones or functional areas based on their intended use, such as entertaining, dining, lounging, gardening, and recreation. Define clear boundaries between different zones while maintaining visual and functional connections between them.

**Sustainable Design Practices:** Incorporate sustainable design principles and practices into the landscape and hardscape design to minimize environmental impact and promote resource efficiency. This includes selecting native and drought-tolerant plants, implementing water-efficient irrigation systems, using permeable paving materials, incorporating green infrastructure elements, and minimizing the use of chemical inputs.

**Climate and Microclimate Considerations:** Consider the local climate and microclimate conditions when selecting plants, materials, and design solutions. Choose plant species and hardscape materials that are well-suited to the prevailing climate, temperature fluctuations, sun exposure, wind patterns, and moisture levels.

**Integration of Hardscape and Softscape:** Integrate hardscape elements, such as patios, decks, pathways, walls, and outdoor structures, harmoniously with softscape elements, such as plants, trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Achieve a balanced composition by carefully considering the scale, materials, textures, and colors of both hardscape and softscape features.

**Safety and Codes Compliance:** Prioritize safety considerations and ensure compliance with local building codes, regulations, and zoning ordinances throughout the design process. Address potential hazards, such as uneven terrain, steep slopes, sharp edges, and trip hazards, to minimize risks and liability.

**Accessibility and Universal Design:** Design the outdoor space to be accessible and inclusive for users of all ages, abilities, and mobility levels. Incorporate universal design principles, such as barrier-free pathways, ramps, handrails, and seating areas, to ensure equitable access and usability for everyone.



## TREES & SHRUBS

Winter is a great time for dormant pruning, thinning, shaping, and reducing the size of the plant. Take care when pruning. You should not remove more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the tree or shrubs original size. Otherwise you risk potentially stressing the plant



## PERENNIALS

Cut back perennials in the fall by trimming off only the brown, dried flower stems, leaves, and stalks to a few inches above the soil and treat with an anti-desiccant spray. You can also mulch over your perennials to help insulate the root zone during the winter months, but this is not necessary. Please note: Some perennials are evergreen and do not die back. Do not trim back green plant material as this may kill the plant.



## EVERGREENS

To protect evergreens from wind burn discoloration and browning, broadleaf evergreens can be sprayed with an anti-desiccant. Or place a burlap barrier on the South and South West sides of the tree. The barrier can be constructed using wooden posts, burlap, staple gun, and twine to create a screen. This will protect the evergreen from damaging winds that can burn the foliage. Please note: Anti-desiccant can cause discoloration on Colorado Spruce.

If your evergreens do have winter burn, wait until mid-spring to prune out the damaged foliage. The evergreen will likely produce growth where you have removed the damage.



## PLOWING & SALT

It is recommended you mark pavement edges to help prevent damaging lawns and irrigation systems during snow plowing. You should carefully plan where snow can be pushed and piled to avoid damaging your landscape.

Although salt is naturally occurring and we try to use salt tolerant plants along pavement edges, excessive salt will kill lawn, trees, and plants. It is critical that salt applications are applied carefully and, when necessary, a physical barrier such as a burlap or silt fence be installed to keep salt off sensitive areas.



**Still have question?** Our team of trusted professionals is here to help you with any additional questions you may have with your property. Don't hesitate to reach out to see how we can help!



We have been providing excellence in landscaping since 2018 for both residential and commercial clients in our area.

★ Rated  
**OUTSTANDING** 155 reviews

**4.8**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

other ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

---

**BM** I used them for fall cleanup. They showed up on time, provided more service than ...

**DM** I hired Golden Wolf for the autumn cleanup at my parent's house. They were...

**VK** Thorough and professional! There were few hiccups as any major projects but were...



908-578-1179

info@gwld.design

GoldenWolfLandscapeAndDesign.com

