



SYNTHETIC TURF STANDARDS PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Emily Lang

Environmental Administrator

Division of Water Restoration Assistance

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Tallahassee, FL | Aug. 5, 2025



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome.
- New Statute 125.572 Florida Statutes (F.S.)
 - Defining synthetic turf.
 - Anticipated timeline.
 - Minimum standards requirements.
 - Draft rule.
- Public comment.
 - Instruction for submitting written comments.
 - Oral comments period.
- Adjourn.



Please scan the QR code or visit the Division of Water Restoration Assistance's [Rules and Rulemaking](#) webpage to learn more.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

Per 125.572(2) F.S.,

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) shall:

- “...adopt minimum standards for the installation of synthetic turf on **single-family residential properties 1 acre or less** in size.”
- The standards being considered by DEP are intended to be applicable to residential landscapes utilizing synthetic turf as a replacement for natural turfgrass and is not intended to address areas such as small pet relief spots or similar.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

DEFINITION OF SYNTHETIC TURF

Synthetic Turf is defined in 125.572(1) F.S. as
“a manufactured product that resembles natural grass and is used as a
surface for landscaping and recreational areas.”



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

Per 125.572(3) F.S.,

Upon adoption of the rule, local governments may not:

- Adopt or enforce any ordinance, resolution, order, rule or policy that prohibits or is enforced to prohibit, a property owner from installing synthetic turf that complies with DEP standards.
- Adopt or enforce any ordinance, resolution, order, rule or policy that regulates synthetic turf which is inconsistent with the DEP standards.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

Per 125.572(2) F.S.,

The standards must take into account:

- Material type.
- Color.
- Permeability.
- Stormwater management.
- Potable water conservation.
- Water quality.
- Proximity to trees and other vegetation.
- Any other factors impacting environmental conditions of adjacent properties.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

MATERIAL TYPE

Material Type:

- Must be lead-free.
- Must be disposable under normal conditions at any Florida landfill.
- Must not use rubber for infill.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

COLOR AND PERMEABILITY

Color:

- No local government may prohibit green.

Permeability:

- Must be installed over a subgrade prepared for positive drainage and evenly graded porous material at least 3 inches thick.
- Must be affixed to permeable backing with a pervious subgrade equal or exceeding natural turf permeability.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND POTABLE WATER CONSERVATION

Stormwater Management:

- Drainage system must be installed underneath in such a way as to prevent excessive runoff or pooling.

Potable Water Conservation:

- Cannot be installed with an in-ground irrigation system in non-active areas.
- If in-ground system is already installed, irrigation heads shall be removed and pipe capped.
- Nothing in this rule shall constitute an authorization for the consumptive use of water for artificial turf.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

WATER QUALITY AND PROXIMITY TO TREES AND OTHER VEGETATION

Water Quality:

- Must meet setback requirements from natural or man-made waterbodies.

Proximity to Trees and Other Vegetation:

- Cannot compromise the health of nearby trees and vegetation.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

ANY OTHER FACTORS IMPACTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF ADJACENT PROPERTIES

Any Other Factors Impacting Environmental Conditions of Adjacent Properties:

- Must be installed according to manufacturer's specifications.
- Must be anchored at all edges and seams to ensure that turf will withstand the effects of wind.



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers will be given three minutes to make their comments.

3:00



SYNTHETIC TURF RULEMAKING

NEXT STEPS

Next Steps:

- Written public comments will be accepted through Aug. 19, 2025.

**Email written comments to:
DWRA.Rulemaking@FloridaDEP.gov**

- DEP will review all comments for the draft rule.
- DEP will publish a Notice of Proposed Rule.

THANK YOU



Emily Lang

Environmental Administrator

Division of Water Restoration Assistance
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Contact Information:

DWRA.Rulemaking@FloridaDEP.gov