



# EMERALD KEEPERS

For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado

## PASS ON FAKE GRASS

The extended California drought and corresponding watering restrictions encourage Coronado homeowners to remove their thirsty grass lawns. While artificial grass has become a popular water saving replacement, Coronado residents should reconsider installing artificial grass as it has numerous negative environmental impacts.

### PLASTIC POLLUTION

Artificial grass is made from a variety of synthetic plastic materials. With use and exposure to sunlight, small pieces of plastic in the artificial grass degrade into microplastics that break down to permeate and pollute our food, water, and air.

### SOIL DEGRADATION

Installing artificial grass requires a compacting process that damages the structure of the soil and kills soil microbes. The dense plastic barrier on top of the compacted soil and sand prevents organic garden material such as leaves and clippings from reaching the soil which is essential for maintaining soil health.

### ECOSYSTEM DESTRUCTION

Artificial turf deprives insects and wildlife including worms, bees, butterflies, and birds, of a natural habitat for feeding, resting, and interaction leading to the continued loss of local biodiversity.

### LANDFILL WASTE

The average lifespan of artificial grass is between 10 and 20 years. At the end of life, artificial grass is very difficult to recycle so most likely ends up as non-biodegradable plastic waste in landfill that contaminates our soil and waters.



Drought-tolerant gardens with native plants can be vibrant and colorful — plus they attract pollinators. Artificial turf disrupts the natural ecosystem.

### EXCEPTIONS

While artificial grass has plentiful environmental issues there are instances where it is an appropriate alternative. Rooftops, balconies, heavily used areas, or spaces designed for pets or children can benefit from the durability of artificial grass.

### RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVES

The most environmentally friendly alternatives to grass and artificial grass include native plants, wild

grasses, and ground cover plants that require limited water and maintenance while providing a natural and pleasing aesthetic for any home.

Replacing natural grass to save water is commendable. However, you can enhance your positive environmental impact by replacing grass with natural alternatives that thrive in our arid climate, support biodiversity, and minimize plastic waste.

For more information visit [EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG](http://EMERALDKEEPERS.ORG)