



# DETHATCH FOR HEALTHY TURF

## The Dethatching Process

The dethatching process is a perfect example of the saying “out of chaos comes harmony”. Removing thatch can be a messy process, but the end result is well worth it. Dethatched turf will grow more uniformly, be healthier over all and be better prepared for successful overseeding in the fall.

Thatch is matted, fibrous material between the soil and surface of the turf. Typically, it is caused by the accumulation of decomposing grass clippings and debris tangled with grass stems and roots. To prevent thatch buildup, use a vacuum or catch mower each time you mow. If you notice minor thatch build up, remove it by hand with a rake.



Buy a dethatching attachment for your push mower to do it yourself.

Dethatching can be done several ways. You can buy an attachment for your lawn mower, rent a dethatcher or hire a landscaper. For a residential lot, we recommend using a dethatching mower attachment, which can be found at your local home improvement or gardening store, for a quick, seasonal dethatching.

Once you dethatch, remove debris by hand raking or with a catch mower. If you dethatch your turf during the growing season, it will recover quicker than if you dethatch in the winter months.



**Before Dethatch**

Turf may appear healthy on the surface, but below there can be a thick mat of thatch, which can cause hot spots and prevent nutrients and water from getting to the roots. Inspect your turf at the base of the grass blade to find thatch.



**After Dethatch**

Dethatching your turf will pull the thatch to the surface. Thatch is most often found in warm weather grasses that creep, like Bermuda grass.



**Clean-Up**

Completely removing and clearing debris from dethatching is important to ensure that turf can breathe and properly recover from dethatching.

