

Welcome to...

Healthy soil for a healthy, beautiful home



Congratulations!

Your new home has healthy soil – for a vibrant landscape that's easier to care for, and healthier for families too.

Your builder has followed new Washington guidelines for building deep, organic rich soil. That helps soak up and clean stormwater, protecting our streams, lakes and Puget Sound. Just like a quality roof or kitchen, it also has lasting benefits for you:

- Lower summer irrigation needs and fertilizer needs – saves you money
- Healthy, vibrant landscapes with less need for pesticides – healthier for your family
- Less yard work, more yard fun!



What's under a beautiful, healthy landscape? Your builder has followed "best practices" that include preserving or reusing high quality native soils, amending soils with compost, and mulching, to reduce compaction and grow a healthy, easy-care landscape. In this case, beauty goes a foot deep, and has lasting benefits!

Keeping your new landscape healthy – it's easier from the start

Here are a few tips to help keep your soil and landscape healthy and easy to care for:

- **Refresh mulch around beds** once a year with coarse bark, wood chip, compost, or shredded leaves. That feeds the soil organisms that keep plants healthy, helps conserve water in summer, keep roots warm in winter, and prevent weeds all year long.
- **Mulch mow – return grass clippings to the lawn.** Studies by Washington State University show that mulch-mowing cuts fertilizer needs, and builds healthy soil and thick turf that resists weeds, pests, and summer drought. You can leave clippings with a conventional mower, but if you're buying a new one, shop for a "mulching" mower. You save money, save time mowing, and get a healthier lawn.
- **Be sure to water and weed well through the first summer.** Water deeply once each rainless week, to help establish deep roots. Pull weeds in beds when they're small, before they go to seed. Once lawns and plants grow deep roots and fill in beds, much less weeding and watering will be needed. A little extra attention in the first year will pay big dividends!

Want to learn more about easy, natural yard care?

Landscape professionals and scientists have assembled some great guides for Washington home owners. Just go to www.BuildingSoil.org and click on "Landscaping Guide," or Google "Natural Yard Care".