

let's remodel

How to protect your lawn, shrubs

Q: We are getting ready to put an addition on our home. We are worried about our lawn, shrubs and flower gardens. What can we do to prepare?

A: To answer, we are reproducing an article from "The Master Plan for Professional Home Remodeling" by The National Association of the Remodeling

Industry. To order the free magazine, call the NARI Hotline at 1-800-440-6274.

■ Work with your remodeler to devise a plan on various ways to preserve your landscaping. It may be as easy as indicating where it is and isn't safe to walk.

■ Always point out your prized plantings for special consideration.

■ Ask that all lumber and materials be stored on paved surfaces. You can also designate a path across your lawn with stakes and string. Allow several access points and try to keep the path as direct as possible.

■ You may want to lay down temporary plywood sidewalks - they distribute weight and will prevent ruts in your lawn. Standing the plywood up at the end of each workday will help preserve the grass. Be sure to remove the plywood as soon as the work is done.

■ If you have a favorite plant or shrub near the work zone on in the direct path from the driveway to the work entrance, consider removing it and storing it in a cool spot until it can be



replanted. Talk to your local nursery or landscape architect for advice.

■ If the project will take too long to remove and replant in the same spot, consider moving the plant to another location and buying new plants for the affected area.

■ Give your lawn a deep soaking after construction.

■ Drag an industrial bar magnet across your lawn two to three times to pick up materials, such as nails. These can become quite hazardous if driven over by a lawn mower.

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