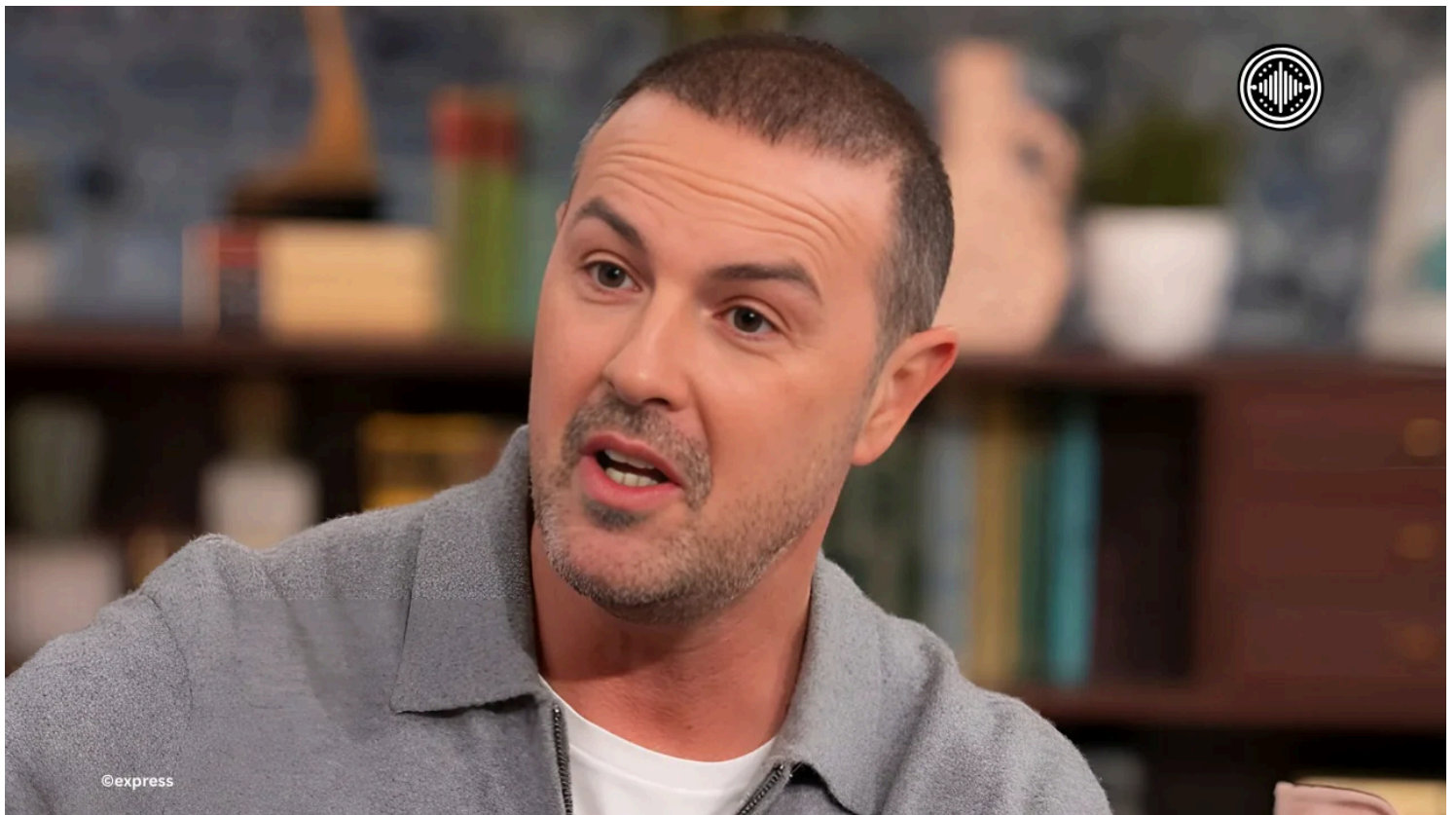


## Paddy McGuinness Criticises Builders Over Faulty Garden Work

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Television presenter Paddy McGuinness has publicly criticised a group of builders he described as “cowboys” after discovering serious problems with artificial grass installed at his home. The 52-year-old comedian, best known for hosting shows such as *Take Me Out* and *Top Gear*, shared his frustration in a video posted on TikTok, revealing how his garden surface had deteriorated only two years after installation.

McGuinness explained that he had commissioned the artificial lawn as a practical solution for his young family, citing the convenience of a low-maintenance garden without mud or mess. Initially, he praised the work, saying the grass looked “brilliant” during the first year or two.

However, in recent months, the situation changed. In the video, he highlighted more than 20 weeds sprouting through different areas of the lawn, particularly along the edges near paving slabs. He also pointed to discoloured and hollow patches, particularly around the edges, which had worsened in recent months.

“Kids have loved it, no mud, no mess, everyone’s happy,” McGuinness said in his post. “But over the last four or five months, I’ve noticed a lot of problems with it. All these mad yellow and orange patches everywhere.”

The clip, which quickly gathered views on social media, was not merely a personal complaint but also a cautionary message for homeowners considering artificial lawns. McGuinness referred to the contractors as “cowboy builders,” a term commonly used in Britain for tradesmen who perform poor-quality or substandard work.

He suggested that buyers should exercise caution when hiring companies for garden renovations, especially when it involves costly artificial turf installations that are marketed as durable and long-lasting.

The video drew a wide reaction online, with many social media users sharing their own experiences of artificial lawns. Some sympathised with McGuinness, commenting that they had faced similar issues with weeds breaking through the surface. Others pointed out that the lifespan of artificial grass varies depending on the quality of the materials and the skill of installation.

Several users noted that poor preparation of the ground beneath the lawn often leads to weed growth, while incorrect drainage can cause discolouration. Experts in the landscaping industry have previously warned that artificial grass requires proper groundwork, weed membranes, and ongoing care despite being marketed as “maintenance-free.”

McGuinness’s frustration has also reignited debate around artificial grass in the UK. While many households install it for convenience, critics argue that it can harm local ecosystems

by reducing natural habitats for insects and affecting soil health. Some councils have discouraged residents from installing artificial turf due to environmental concerns.

However, others defend its use, especially for families with young children and pets, citing ease of cleaning and year-round appearance. Artificial lawns also remain popular in urban areas where natural grass struggles to thrive.

The presenter's remarks also highlight a wider issue with building and landscaping standards in the UK. Rogue traders and poor workmanship remain a recurring problem across the construction and home improvement sector. Consumer watchdogs have repeatedly urged homeowners to check for accreditations, request references, and ensure contracts are in place before starting work.

While McGuinness has not named the company responsible, his comments serve as a reminder that even high-profile clients are not immune to substandard work. For many ordinary homeowners, the financial consequences of poor-quality installation can be far greater.

Although known for his light-hearted presenting style, McGuinness has occasionally used his platform to draw attention to everyday concerns. His decision to post the video in a relaxed, conversational style while sitting in his garden gave viewers a candid look at the frustrations faced by families who invest in home improvements that do not live up to expectations.

The incident also reflects the growing trend of celebrities turning to social media platforms to hold companies accountable. With millions of followers, public figures can generate significant attention when they share personal grievances, putting pressure on businesses to improve standards.

McGuinness has not yet indicated whether he plans to take further action regarding the faulty installation, such as seeking compensation or replacing the artificial lawn. However, his criticism has already struck a chord with the public, sparking renewed discussion about the risks of hiring unreliable builders.

As the debate continues, consumer groups are likely to reiterate calls for stricter regulation in the landscaping industry, ensuring that homeowners receive fair value for their

investments. For now, McGuinness's garden woes serve as both a personal inconvenience and a broader warning for households considering similar projects.