

Taking Care of Your Artificial Turf Indoor or Non-Infill

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Please distribute this manual to those responsible for the day to day care of the turf field and see that they are thoroughly familiar with its contents. You should also review the warranty provided with the turf system for specific prohibitions and limitations contained therein.

Introduction to Daily Use

This manual outlines simple day to day care and those occasional special procedures necessary for minor repairs, snow removal and unusual event or uses. The following are general keys to preserving your turf system.

I. Daily Usage

1. Footwear should be restricted to ½" molded cleats
2. Stance areas for baseball/softball, Lacrosse, Field Hockey and soccer goal mouths face abnormal wear patterns and must be monitored daily.
(See section II)
3. No vehicles of any kind should be allowed on turf due to the E-layer
4. No food, chewing gum, sunflower seeds and/or tobacco products on playing surface.
5. Daily cleaning of surface should be hand picked. Vacuums with dual motors and leaf blowers recommended.
6. Turf grooming and cleaning must be done by trained staff and authorized equipment.
7. Steps must be taken to prevent dirt/debris from collecting onto surface from nearby trees and parking lot trash.

Table of Contents

I. CLEANING AND STAIN REMOVAL

- General Care and Prevention
- Stain Removal
- Protect Your Turf
- Event Preparation

II. MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

- Vacuuming and Blower Sweeping
- Washing and Cleaning
- Watering/Cooling the Surface
- Maintenance Log

III. MINOR REPAIRS

- Seam Repair
- Burns

IV. CONCLUSION

- Summary
- Approved Products

I. CLEANING AND STAIN REMOVAL

GENERAL

For outdoor installations, rain is your best cleanser. Rainfall gently cleans the turf fibers of dust, pollen and airborne pollutants in way that is difficult to duplicate in any other fashion. In areas where rainfall is scarce, during prolonged periods of drought, or for indoor settings, an occasional water flush is beneficial to soak and thus cleanse the turf system this procedure is recommended for all turf systems.

HOWEVER, THE MOST OBVIOUS CLEANING NEEDED is the removal of litter deposited by users and spectators at events held on the field. Good housekeeping practices will minimize these problems:

- Keep trash and litter containers on site make sure there are enough containers to eliminate overflow.
- Route field traffic in such a way as to minimize mud and dirt tracking on to the field.
- Set up drinks for athletes during practice breaks off the field itself, if possible.
- Enforce a smoke-free environment, if possible, and discourage the use of tobacco products such as chewing tobacco

LITTER REMOVAL

Paper, peanut shells, sunflower seeds, athletic tape, paper, etc., should and can be removed most easily with either backpack blower or a vacuum cleaner immediately after any event.

When using this equipment, several points should be observed so the equipment does not damage the turf.

BRUSH SETTING

The vacuum cleaner should have synthetic fiber bristles such as nylon or polypropylene. The brush must contain no metal or wire! (Metal bristles or fibers can create a safety hazard in addition to damaging the turf in use.)

Proper cleaning should go against the grain along the seams and try not to cross over of the seams.

FREQUENCY

The removal of loose rubbish and surface dust should be performed on an as need basis, generally about twice a month during heavy use periods.

Stain Removal

GENERAL

Polyethylene pile fibers are among the most stain resistant fibers. Most “stains” on GrassTex fields are not true “stains” but rather residues of foreign matter that must be promptly and thoroughly removed.

Such “stains” on wet fields can be removed with water or soap and water. The first rule is promptness. It is much easier to clean up a fresh spill before it has time to dry and harden. Remove any solid or putty-like deposit promptly using a dull knife or spatula-like tool. Blot up excess liquids with a stack of towels, cloth or paper. Dry absorbent clay based materials; such as kitty litter absorbers can be very useful and should be stored on site. Such dry absorbers can be swept or vacuumed up.

PROCEDURE FOR REMOVING “STAINS” AND OTHER BLEMISHES

A. “Water Borne” Residues

Most “stains” commonly associated with playing fields can be classified as “water borne” stains. These stains are best removed using a warm, mild solution of granular household detergent (non abrasive).

TYPICAL WATER BORNE “STAINS”

| | | |
|-------------|---------|-------------|
| Acid | Alcohol | Alkali |
| Ice Cream | Latex | Paint Milk |
| Urine Water | Colors | Fruit Juice |

1. Brush the residue with a stiff fiber brush.
2. Scrub the area with soap and water.
3. Rinse the area thoroughly with clear water to remove all traces of soap.
4. Dry with absorbent towel, if necessary.

Maintenance and Care for Indoor or Non Infilled Artificial Turf Continued

A three percent solution of ammonia in water may be used in lieu of household detergent for more stubborn residues or stains.

B. Persistent or Oil Based Stains

Follow directions below:

- **PROBLEM:** Crayon, furniture stain, lipstick, metal polish, cooking oil, rubber cleat marks, shoe polish, suntan oil, ballpoint ink
PROCEDURE: Sponge with perchloroethylene (dry cleaning solution). Blot with absorbent towels.
- **PROBLEM:** Oil paints
PROCEDURE: Blot immediately. Sponge with turpentine or paint remover (apply sparingly). Blot with detergent and water. Re-sponge with cold water. To remove detergent. Scrape excess. Sponge with perchloroethylene (dry cleaning solvent). Repeat steps as necessary.
- **PROBLEM:** Nail Polish
PROCEDURE: Sponge with acetone.
- **PROBLEM:** Paraffin Wax
PROCEDURE: Scrape excess. Sponge with perchloroethylene (dry cleaning solvent).
- **PROBLEM:** Tar and Asphalt
PROCEDURE: Scrape excess. Sponge with perchloroethylene (dry cleaning solvent).

Caution!!

Mineral spirits and other petroleum based solvents are highly flammable. Do not smoke or permit open flames near container or near solution when in use. Be sure the area is well ventilated.

C. Animal Waste

Maintenance and Care for Indoor or Non Infilled Artificial Turf Continued

Neutralize with mixture of white distilled vinegar in an equal amount of water. Flush thoroughly with water after application. An enzyme type of cleaner is also effective.

D. Chewing Gum

Spray with Freon and scrape to remove residue (available in aerosol packs from carpet cleaning suppliers- or use dry ice)

E. Fungus, Mold Spots, Moss or to disinfect

Vital Oxide comes ready to use. Do not use high pressure water spray with stream force in excess of 2500 PSI as this can severely damage the turf. Vital Oxide is an EPA registered disinfectant.

Protect Your Turf

1. Spread the load!

Remember that chairs and high heel shoes create high psi levels on the turf and put the system at risk. The basic precaution is to keep long term static loads below 2.46kg/cm by means of load spreaders. The best, most economical load spreader is outdoor plywood. Be sure to spread a polyethylene sheet under the plywood to protect the turf. Sheets of plywood are ideal and readily available. 19 mm thick plywood is recommended as long as the loads are not excessive (such as a concert stage or sound systems). If chairs are placed directly on the turf, inspect chair leg bottoms to be sure jagged or sharp ends cannot cut the turf. Metal chair legs should be protected with rubber tips. Wooden legs should be free of any projection sharp enough to cut the turf.

Portable Outdoor Floor Tile by Greatmats is another great option for spreading the load and protecting your turf.

2. Ban Open Flames!

No such acts should be allowed on the turf for obvious reasons.

3. Clean Up Immediately!

Animal waste should be removed and the area flushed thoroughly. The field should be inspected for damage so that small problems do not become major repair cases.

4. Ban Smoking!

Cigarettes cannot ignite the turf but they can damage the turf. If large crowds are expected, a cigarette ban should be enforced. However, in these cases, even if heavy loads will not be present on the turf, the turf should be covered.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

SNOW AND ICE ARE NOT HARMFUL TO ARTIFICIAL TURF and generally should be left to melt system without assistance. At times, however, it is necessary to remove snow or ice to make the field playable for a scheduled event. The working principle for removing snow is to do so as near to game time as possible. This reduces the likelihood of new snow buildup and will reduce the risk of ice from cold winds whipping across a damp, newly cleared surface. Because ice removal is more difficult, the prevention of ice buildup is important.

Event Preparation

Greatmats.com Artificial Turf fields are designed to be multi-purpose and as such host numerous non-athletic events such as graduation exercises, assemblies, convocations, shows, concerts, circuses, etc.

Generally, two areas of concern should be recognized:

1. These events can create loads on the turf that exceed the surface load limit set forth in the warranty and in the load limits outlines in this manual.
2. Large crowds and act on the turf generally fall outside the “designated uses” for the system and damage of the turf can occur unless it is fully protected.

II. MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Daily: Check the field after each day's use for distribution and condition of the heavily played areas.

Weekly: Vacuum any loose debris from the surface of the field.

Quarterly: Seams should be inspected and resealed if separation is occurring. (See Section III for repair)

Annually: Field should be groomed.

NOTE: These are minimum recommendations. Common sense and careful observation should prevail. If any serious doubt exists about the effectiveness of the maintenance regime or the condition of the field, contact with the manufacturer should be made.



PERIODIC BRUSHING

Matting of fibers may occur in areas of high foot traffic, especially if fibers have become soiled with dirt and other airborne pollutants.

Periodic “cross brushing” of the turf can help restore the aesthetic appearance of the turf . “Cross brushing” means all brushing activity takes place against the grain, nap, or sweep of the turf fibers. By brushing against the turf, the fibers will become erect. A brush with synthetic bristles should be used. Never use a brush with metal or wire bristles as these will change the turf fibers.

Maintenance and Care for Indoor or Non Infilled Artificial Turf Continued

WATERING/COOLING THE SURFACE

Synthetic fibers are reflective in design to prolong exposure to sunlight. This design can cause heat patterns that can be overcome by watering the field. In many instances, coaches, players and trainers prefer to wet the turf down during use in order to lower the temperature/humidity index. This is a good idea and recommended because in periods of very hot weather. A wet field provides evaporation, which indeed lowers the temperature of the field rapidly.

The temperature of wet synthetic turf fields should match that of natural grass in the same area. Remember that evaporation can be very rapid (up to 1,200 gallons of water per hour on an average sized field) so with long uses of the turf, an additional sprinkling may become necessary. Try and distribute the water evenly over the field area to be used while avoiding sidelines etc.. **Never Use water from a polluted supply!**

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Maintenance and Care for Indoor or Non Infilled Artificial Turf Continued

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III. MINOR REPAIRS

Because most of fields are used heavily in the fall and winter months, good maintenance practice is to thoroughly inspect the field in the spring and make repairs to the surface in the spring and early summer. If a service visit must be scheduled, we ask that such a request be made as soon as possible in the spring so that the visit may coincide with a scheduled service trip to other fields in your area or in conjunction with the installation of a new field in your area.

All panels of turf should be inspected for damage, rips, tears, burns, etc. Make a sketch of the pitch and note on the sketch each area that needs attention.

Whether performed by the installer or by the Owner, all repairs must be made in warm, dry weather. Gluing seams should not take place if the field is wet or even damp.

“MINOR” VS. “MAJOR” REPAIRS

Maintenance and Care for Indoor or Non Infilled Artificial Turf Continued

Experience has taught us that most field repairs are minor in nature. However, minor problems can become major problems quickly if not corrected. Small loose spots on glued seams extending a few inches to a foot or two are to be expected with these systems and are not unusual or cause for great concern. They can generally be repaired by the owner's maintenance staff. Cuts, rips and tears in the surface that do not exceed six inches or so in length do not generally require a special trip by our service staff and can also be repaired by the Owner without much effort. These problems should be regarded as minor unless allowed to grow.

SEAM REPAIRS

These instructions refer to loose seams, typically from a ½" to ¾" in length along the seam. If the seam openings over ¾" is considered severe, the user should contact Greatmats.com for prompt assistance.

To repair minor seam openings or loose seam areas:

1. Vacuum the turf to be repaired.
2. Be sure fabrics to be glued are free from any and all loose debris, sand, dirt, old adhesive and other foreign matter, and are dry.
3. Clean the area to be repaired and wipe the opening with methyl-ethyl-key tone (MEK), toluene, or, if neither is available, with mineral spirits.
4. Position the fabric to check for satisfactory final placement.
5. Inject a small amount of adhesive (Turf Claw®) from the adhesive bottle on to the seaming tape. Avoid excessive adhesive to reduce the possibility of bleed through or bleed out. Spread the adhesive with a knife or spatula so that the entire fabric is coated lightly, but evenly.
6. Prop open the seam so that the adhesive is allowed to cure in the open air. (The adhesive is a brand of polyurethane adhesive and must be allowed to absorb moisture from the air to "kick" or activate.) a lot at least 10 minutes of curing time before closing the turf and weighting it down. This curing time recommendation is critical and is based on an ambient temperature of 75°F with 50% relative humidity. If the weather is colder or dryer, the open time should be extended until the adhesive spread

on the fabric seems almost “dead” – i.e., only small strings (“angel hairs”) of adhesive stick to your finger or a piece of turf when pressed into the bed of adhesive and removed.

7. Press the fabric into the adhesive bed uniformly.
8. Weight down the area and allow to cure at least 24 hours.

Other Typical Repairs

CIGARETTE BURNS

A lit cigarette can damage any turf system. The cigarette may scorch and blacken the turf. Use a strong bristled brush (such as is used to remove paint) and brush the spot vigorously to separate the fibers. If brushing the turf does not remove the damage, take a razor knife and cut the fused area away.

If fabric seams or tears have gone beyond the scope outlined above, the installer should be contacted immediately for assistance, advice or to request a scheduled service visit. Any damage to the pad, de-lamination between the pad and turf, vandalized areas or dis-colorations should be reported to Greatmats.

CONCLUSION

With the many advances in turf design, installation techniques and materials fields are even less maintenance intensive than ever before. Compared to natural grass fields, our fields should be considered virtually “maintenance free” but no surface should be thought of as care free. However, your field will perform, look and feel better for a longer period of time if the maintenance procedures outlined in this manual are followed closely. The manual attempts to encounter and answer the most frequently asked questions regarding your field. However, there are always new uses, new problems and unanticipated twists or needs. Do not hesitate to call us!

PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

- Storage or materials such as drums, lumber, equipment, etc...
- Any vehicular traffic.
- Golfing, shot putting, javelin or discus throwing, and the use of long spike track shoes associated with cinder tracks
- Open flames, fireworks, welding, etc...
- Use of wire brushes in any form.
- Heavy loads exceeding 300 lbs per sq. ft.
- Use of cleaning equipment, methods or materials not authorized

Maintenance and Care for Indoor or Non Infilled Artificial Turf Continued

- High pressure water sprays exceeding 21 kg/cm²

APPROVED PRODUCTS

Adhesives/Paint:

Turf Claw®

Mapai 2 Part Seam Repair Kit

Cleaning Agents:

Vital Oxide®

Mr. Clean with Febreze (Multi-Surface Concentrate)

Maintenance Equipment:

Bear Cat by Echo or Billy Goat Vacuums

Force Blower by Billy Goat or other walk behind commercial blowers

Backpack blower

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