



# FIELDturf<sup>®</sup> Playground



Maintenance Manual  
Playground Division



## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing FieldTurf Playground. We have compiled information concerning the maintenance of your playground facility. Please feel free to contact your local representative if you have any specific questions or concerns.

We are convinced that you will share our pride and be entirely satisfied with your FieldTurf Playground surface and its superior safety characteristics.

Your FieldTurf Playground safety surface is made up of specially manufactured synthetic grass, combined with a formulated infill mixture of specially graded sand and ground rubber which is brushed into the spaces between the grass fibers. FallSoft padding is installed beneath the surface to further enhance the system's shock absorbency. This base, along with the grass fibers, act jointly with the infill mix to create a safe, resilient, shock absorbing and long lasting safety surface.

By following the maintenance procedures outlined in this manual, your FieldTurf Playground surface will be kept in optimum condition and the superior safety characteristics of your FieldTurf Playground surface will bring you the satisfaction you seek in the safety surfacing of your playground.



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## 1.0 Routine Maintenance

### 1.1 Approved Activities

Your FieldTurf Playground safety surface has been designed for normal and ordinary Playground activities and conforms to or exceeds all ASTM standards for this particular installation requirement.

### 1.2 Prohibitions on the Playground Surface

Your FieldTurf Playground surface should be kept free from glass, cigarettes, fireworks, stones and any sharp objects that will risk injury to children and damage to the Playground surface. Your FieldTurf Playground surface should also be kept free from debris, dirt, stones, leaves, paper and wind-blown material. It is imperative that your FieldTurf Playground surface be designated a non-smoking area.

### 1.3 "Settling In" of the Playground Safety Surface

After installation, the FieldTurf Playground surface will feel softer than anticipated. Full penetration of the infill between the grass fibers and its subsequent settling into a uniform surface will occur naturally over time with normal weathering (rainfall) and initial use of the playground. Depending on climatic conditions, this "settling in" period usually reaches its optimum after 2 to 3 months of use. After this, the playground surface will stabilize.

### 1.4 Grooming the Playground Safety Surface

In order to maintain optimum performance and appearance of your playground safety surface, the following maintenance procedures must be performed on a regular basis using a stiff bristle push broom or drag brush depending on the size of the area. (Do not use stiff plastic or metal bristles or rakes.)

Every 4 weeks, check the high traffic areas and groom the entire playground by pushing or dragging the brush over the playground surface. The broom should be pushed/dragged in two directions. This will groom the exposed grass fibers and keep them from matting down excessively while providing an opportunity to maintain the infill level. (Grooming will prematurely age the surface if done more than once a month.)

## 2.0 Removal of Weeds and Stains

### 2.1 Removal of Weed and Moss

FieldTurf's superior artificial playground surface may look like grass, feel like grass and play like grass, however if not properly maintained, much like its natural cousin, it may still become susceptible to one of grass lovers natural foes: weeds. It is important to prevent weeds and moss from growing on FieldTurf Playground. Although routine maintenance will prevent this from happening, weeds may occur at the interface between the synthetic grass and the perimeter curb. Should this occur, weeds should be treated with a *biodegradable* weed killer which leaves no residue and more importantly won't negatively affect the fibers or the coloring of your playground surface. Moss could grow on the playground surface if the following conditions are present:

- i. If the playground surface has not been properly maintained or groomed over a long period of time.
- ii. If the playground is in a shaded area.
- iii. If the playground surface has been left covered with vinyl tarps or impermeable objects over a long period of time.
- iv. If there is sufficient moisture and other conditions for growth are met.

The presence of weeds and moss can occur if the surface is neglected and not maintained. Contact your FieldTurf Playground Representative for assistance should a problem arise.





## 2.0 Removal Of Stains And Weeds (Continued)

### 2.2 Removal of Stains

#### *Oil Stains*

Oil and all other stains can be quickly and efficiently removed with FieldTurf *Scrub Detergent*. The scrub detergent also acts to clean and decontaminate the FieldTurf surface. Contaminated or stained infill can be easily replaced with new infill as required. Contact your FieldTurf Playground Surface Representative for more information.

Non-foaming detergents can also be used to remove stains. All cleaning detergents should be completely flushed from the affected areas to prevent the playground surface from becoming slippery and posing a potential safety hazard. In all cases, manufacturer's instructions should be followed when applying any stain removal product.

#### *Gum*

Chewing gum and adhesives can be easily removed by using FieldTurf *Gum Remover*. Contact our FieldTurf Playground Surface Customer Service Department to order.

#### *Bodily Fluids*

A cleaner such as FieldTurf *Scrub* can be used to remove bodily fluids (blood, vomit, etc.) from the playground surface. This product differs from a germicidal cleaner in that it digests the host, thus eliminating the source whereas a germicidal cleaner eliminates bacteria but does not eliminate the host material. It is safe and environmentally friendly and may also be used to clean and deodorize the playground surface.

*It is important to thoroughly flush the cleaning detergent from the affected area to avoid the playground surface from becoming slippery and posing a potential safety hazard.*



## 3.0 Maintaining the Infill

### 3.1 Keeping The Infill Level

Routine grooming of the FieldTurf Playground surface will assure that the infill is uniformly distributed at all times over the entire playground. Intensive and repetitive use of certain areas of the playground such as under slides, swings, and high traffic areas may also cause the infill material to be displaced.

Uniformity of the infill can be easily maintained by replacing the displaced infill in these specific areas following these steps:

If possible, before proceeding with the infill replacement, make sure the grass and the infill are completely dry.

**Step 1:** Using a medium stiff bristle brush agitate the exposed fibers in the area requiring infill in order to raise the exposed grass fibers into a vertical position.

**Step 2:** Using a wide, flat shovel or a small fertilizer drop spreader, apply and distribute the necessary quantity of infill evenly over the areas needing infill replacement. The infill should be distributed in thin layers in order to avoid matting down the exposed fibers thereby creating more work.

**Step 3:** Brush the infill into the grass by lightly agitating the fibers again using a medium stiff bristle brush.

**Step 4:** Repeat step "2" until the grass is properly in-filled to a level of at least 50% from the tips of the exposed grass fibers. Once the grass has been in-filled to this recommended level, gently agitate the area to assure that the infill settles below the exposed tips of the grass fibers. If the area is blackened, a small mist of water over the area should eliminate any static electricity that may have been caused by the brushing action on the grass fibers. The top of the infill should be at a level of no less than 50% below the tips of the exposed grass fibers.



Should you require adding infill on specific areas in wet conditions, agitate the grass as described above and wet the infill after placing it. This should be done with either a watering can or a garden hose in order for the infill to flow into the grass and settle in. The same infill depth applies here.



## 4.0 Snow Removal

### 4.1 Adverse Weather Conditions

The FieldTurf Playground surface may freeze under specific climatic conditions, such as a rapid drop in temperature combined with high moisture content. The following products can *NOT* be used on FieldTurf Playground surface.

- i. The application of Urea is *NOT PERMITTED* due to environmental considerations.
- ii. The application of Magnesium Chloride is *NOT PERMITTED*.



### 4.2 Snow Removal

- i. A small snow blower can be used to remove snow from the playground; however care and certain precautions must be taken to avoid damage to the playground surface.
- ii. Under no circumstances should tires equipped with anti-skid chains be used on FieldTurf Playground surfaces.
- iii. Spinning of wheels is prohibited on the FieldTurf Playground surface.

Very little infill will be removed from the playground surface when removing the snow provided that the above-mentioned precautions are taken.

## 5.0 Painted Lines and Markings

The following permanent and temporary paints may be used on a FieldTurf Playground safety surface to be purchased directly from the paint suppliers listed below:

ECO Chemical  
 www.ecochemical.com  
 Contact : Jeff Fisher 1-800-677-7930  
 jeff@ecochemical.com

Pioneer  
 www.pioneer-mfg.com  
 Contact: Dana Dieterich 1-800-877-1500  
 ddieterich@pioneer-mfg.com

Please contact our FieldTurf Playground Customer Service Department for additional information or inquiries.



## 6.0 FieldTurf Playground Products

The following FieldTurf Playground surface products have been tested and are environmentally safe to use on FieldTurf Playground surfaces.

### 6.1 FieldTurf Playground Scrub Detergent

FieldTurf *Scrub* is a powerful industrial cleaner and conditioner, which can be used for removal of grease and oil, and is chemically formulated to be compatible with other FieldTurf Playground treatment products, such as liquid static conditioners. This product may also be used to clean and decontaminate surrounding surfaces, such as benches, playground equipment, and other items.



### 6.2 FieldTurf Playground Static Control

FieldTurf *Static Control* is specifically formulated for the effective control of electrical static build-up on playground surfaces. The product can be purchased in a liquid or powder form and is safe for applications on your FieldTurf Playground safety surface without affecting the color and appearance of your FieldTurf Playground surface.

### 6.3 FieldTurf Playground Gum Remover

FieldTurf *Gum Remover* is an effective biodegradable solvent formulated for removing gum, tar, and adhesives from FieldTurf Playground surface.



Please contact our FieldTurf Playground Customer Service Department for additional information or inquiries.



## 7.0 Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What do I do when static electricity occurs on my FieldTurf Playground safety surface?

Static electricity is most likely to build up on playground surfaces under dry and warm atmospheric conditions. Excessive friction applied to playground surfaces may also cause static electricity build-up. Excessive build-up of static electricity on the playground surface could cause the black rubber infill particles to cling to the top of the exposed grass fibers thus making the playground surface appear darker. The application of a water mist over the affected areas will eliminate static electricity build up and allow the rubber particles to immediately drop off from the exposed grass fibers. Natural rainfall and morning dew will also eliminate static electricity build up on your FieldTurf Playground surface. (See Section 6.2)

### 2. How does my FieldTurf Playground surface drain?

Your FieldTurf Playground surface is specifically designed to behave as a permeable system. No special attention is needed. Play can resume shortly after heavy rainfalls.

### 3. Can you use Urea to melt snow on FieldTurf Playground safety surface?

Urea is *NOT* to be used on your FieldTurf Playground surface to melt snow or ice due to environmental regulations and concerns.

### 4. What is the warranty period of my FieldTurf Playground surface?

Your FieldTurf Playground surface carries a limited manufacture warranty on the FieldTurf Playground grass under normal use of approved activities and provided that routine maintenance and proper infill levels are maintained as outlined in this maintenance manual.

### 5. How does climate affect my FieldTurf Playground safety surface i.e. snow, rain, and salt water?

Your FieldTurf Playground surface is designed to withstand a wide range of climatic and atmospheric conditions, such as ultra-violet rays (UV), snow, ice, and salt water and sea climates without damaging the FieldTurf Playground surface. However, it is essential that the surface is washed periodically to remove any salt water deposits.

### 6. Can bleaching agents be used on FieldTurf Playground surface?

Oxidizing agents such as bleaching agents should *NOT* be used on your FieldTurf Playground surface. Contact your FieldTurf Playground representative for inquiries.

### 7. What is considered normal use of my FieldTurf Playground?

Normal play and ordinary use includes a reasonable number of users and does not include repetitive activity, such as landing zones under the see-saw, swing and slide.



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