



How to Care for your No Fault SporTurf For Playgrounds

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.

If you have further questions, contact

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FORWARD

THIS MANUAL OUTLINES SIMPLE DAY-TODAY CARE AND THOSE OCCASIONAL SPECIAL PROCEDURES NECESSARY FOR MINOR REPAIRS, SNOW REMOVAL AND STANDARD DAY-TO-DAY USE.

THE FOLLOWING ARE GENERAL KEYS TO PRESERVING YOUR PLAYGROUND TURF SYSTEM

I. Daily Usage

1. Footwear should be restricted to standard tennis shoes, and/or flat soled athletic shoes.
2. Pets or animals should not be allowed on artificial turf areas.
3. Motorized vehicles should not be allowed on playground turf. If any scissor lifts are used for building maintenance they should ride over plywood loose laid over the turf. Light machinery such as Gators, tractors and golf carts are permissible with turf tires only.
4. No food, chewing gum, sunflower seeds and/or tobacco products on playing surface.
5. Steps must be taken to prevent dirt/debris from collecting onto surface from nearby trees and parking lot trash.

I. CLEANING AND STAIN REMOVAL

GENERAL

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- or during prolonged periods of drought- 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 on the play area. Good housekeeping practices will minimize these problems:

- Keep trash and litter containers on site make sure there are enough containers to eliminate overflow.
- Enforce a smoke-free environment, if possible, and discourage the use of all tobacco products, including chewing tobacco.

LITTER REMOVAL

Paper, peanut shells, sunflower seeds, athletic tape, paper, etc., should and can be removed most easily with a lawn sweeper or a motorized vacuum sweeper immediately after any event. When using these machines, several points should be observed so the machine does not damage the turf.

Brush Type

The sweeper 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.)

Brush Setting

Proper dragging of the turf brushes (“cross brushing”) and brush/vacuum machines will not harm the turf. However, the brush setting should be monitored. The actual setting will, of course, depend on the model and type of sweeper. The sweeper will work best, however, when the brush is set so that it barely touches the tips of the fibers of the turf. **DO NOT SET THE BRUSH SO LOW THAT IT DIGS INTO THE PILE OR BACKING.** Too low a setting can damage the turf. Vacuum cleaners are not recommended to remove mud.

Temperature Limitations

Never use a motorized vacuum sweeper during the heat of the day if the ambient temperature exceeds 90 °F.

Turf Loading Limitations

Brushing and brush cleaning may require several trips over the play area to finish the operation. Any sweeper that weighs more than 135 kg. Should have pneumatic tires with a maximum tire pressure of 35 pounds per square inch (psi) or 2.46 kilograms per square centimeter (kg/cm²). Do not park vehicles on the turf, especially in the heat of the day, or leave vehicles on wet turf for long periods of time.

Vehicle Exhaust !!!

Never leave a parked vehicle idling on the turf in order to prevent the possibility of burning or melting the turf due to exhaust or overheating. Make certain the hot engine exhaust is never discharged in the field when using any kind of vehicle.

Oil Spillage, etc.

Care should be taken to prevent lubricating oil, grease, transmission fluids, etc., from dripping or spilling on your turf surface during sweepings. Such spills can discolor the turf. Proper maintenance procedures should be observed in this regard. Battery acid and other fluids should not be allowed on the turf. **Never change or add fluids to maintenance equipment while on the turf surface.**

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

Polyethylene pile fibers are among the most stain resistant fibers. Most “stains” on **No Fault Sporturf** Synthetic Turf fields are not true “stains” but rather residues of foreign matter that must be promptly and thoroughly removed.

Such “stains” on wet turf 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 cat 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 turf playgrounds 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 include:

Acid	Ice Cream	Urine
Alcohol	Latex Paint	Water Colors
Alkali	Milk	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.
5. 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

❖ **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

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 or Moss

Using a one percent solution of hydrogen peroxide in water, sponge on and Flush thoroughly with water after application. Moss can be killed by using 50% bleach solution. Do not use high pressure water spray with stream force in excess of 2500 PSI as this can severely damage the turf.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

SNOW AND ICE ARE NOT HARMFUL TO PLAYGROUND TURF and generally should be left to melt and drain off the system without assistance. At times, however, it is necessary to remove snow or ice to make the turf playable.

The working principle for removing snow is to do so as near to play 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.

Sweepers

If the snow is dry and powdery, it can be swept from the turf using a rotary brush. **Be careful that the machinery used is not set in such a way as to dig into the turf fabric.**

Snow Removal Using a Rubber Bladed Snow Plow

Wet, sticky snow may be more easily removed if pushed off the turf using a snowplow with a **rubber tipped blade**. This blade may be mounted on a jeep or light tractor. **Extreme care must be used to prevent digging the blade into the surface!** The best blade configuration is one that sets the blade above the surface. This results in the blade “kissing” the surface and rolling the snow ahead of the blade. The snow itself will maintain contact with the surface. **Note: Wood, metal or other rigid surface blades should not be allowed.**

When using a snow plow:

- ✓ Remove the snow in layers.
- ✓ Adjust the blade to proper height **taking care that it does not make contact with the surface.**
- ✓ Push the snow into piles.
- ✓ Scoop the snow into trucks using front-end loaders.
- ✓ Use a rotary mechanical broom or snow blower to clean off the remaining snow.
- ✓ Break up any ice using a small weighted lawn roller and then proceed with procedure above.

Note: Use only pneumatic tires on equipment used in the removal of snow and ice. Lugs, chains, and studs are damaging to the surface and should never be used on the field. Do not park equipment on the field overnight or for extended periods of time as this can damage the system. (Note that the equipment should not create excessive dynamic or static loads.)

AVOID USING A TARP ON THE FIELD DURING FREEZING WEATHER. Tarps can freeze to the turf by means of condensation and thus can be very difficult to remove for a scheduled event.

WATERING 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 turf. Some child care directors or maintenance personnel prefer to wet the turf down during use in order to lower the temperature/humidity index. This is a good idea and recommended, wet turf provides evaporation, which indeed lowers the temperature of the turf rapidly. The temperature of wet synthetic turf 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 area to be used. **Never Use water from a polluted supply!**

II. MINOR REPAIRS

It is a recommended maintenance practice is to thoroughly inspect the turf once a year. All seams should be inspected carefully for looseness. 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 and sanding the turf should not take place if the field is wet or even damp.

“Minor” vs. “Major” Repairs

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 few millimeters to a couple of meters in length along the seam. If the seam openings are widespread or severe, the user should contact **No Fault Sport Group** for prompt assistance.

To repair minor seam openings or loose seam areas:

1. Be sure fabrics to be glued are free from loose sand, dirt, old adhesive and other foreign matter, and are dry.
2. Clean the area to be repaired and wipe the opening with methyl-ethyl-keytone (MEK), toluene, or, if neither is available, with mineral spirits.
3. Position the fabric to check for satisfactory final placement.
4. Inject a small amount of adhesive (**PL Polyurethane caulk**) 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.
5. 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.
6. Press the fabric into the adhesive bed uniformly.
7. Weight down the area and allow to cure at least 24 hours.

Cigarette Burns

A lit cigarette can scorch and/or blacken the turf. Use a metal 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, undue loss of sand, vandalized areas or dis-colorations should be reported to **No Fault Sport Group**.

III. 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, **No Fault SporTurf Synthetic Turf playgrounds should be considered virtually “maintenance free”**. However, your No Fault SporTurf 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...
- × Unnecessary 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 .21 kg/cm² (static) or 2.46 kg/cm² (dynamic).
- × Use of cleaning equipment, methods or materials not authorized.
- × High pressure water sprays exceeding 21 kg/cm²
- × Vehicles with non-pneumatic tires.

Key Points to Remember

- Keep the field clean. Sweep and hose the field as needed per this manual. Keep plenty of trash and litter containers on site for participants to use.
- Keep vehicular traffic off the pitch as much as possible.
- Post **NO SMOKING** signs around the turf.
- Don't abuse the turf by overloading it. Use plywood and fabrics to protect the turf especially if special events are scheduled on the play area.
- Make minor repairs. Report major problems to **No Fault Sport Group** right away.
- Follow exactly the recommendations and procedures incorporated in this manual.

Approved Products:

1. PL Polyurethane (outdoor use in red/yellow label only) (800) 999-8920
2. Laymor Ride On Sweepers (800) 323-0135
3. Parker Sweepers (pull-behind) (800) 323-9420
4. Greens Groomer (888) 298-8852
5. Go Groomer (800) 728-3581
6. Pioneer Titan Paint (800) 877-1500
7. TurfAide (anti-microbial spray) Coating Specialist (888) 510- CTGS