

Regular maintenance of your synthetic grass facility will optimise playing performance, maximise the life expectancy of the surface and increase revenue.

The following information is for guidance purposes only and should be read in conjunction with any specific maintenance documents issued. Not all processes will be applicable to all facilities.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE GUIDE:

Daily (after a day's play)

- General inspection of the pitch including seams
- Litter picking
- Leaf / flora collection

Weekly

- General inspection to include seams and general pitch condition
- Drag brushing / drag matting

Monthly

- Specialist power sweeping
- Specialist decompaction service

Annually

- Annual report
- Summer deep clean

As Required

- Infill top-ups
- Moss & weed treatments
- Line marking
- Surface rejuvenation
- Repairs / remedial work

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Litter / Flora Collection

Fallen leaves and litter should be removed from your synthetic pitch on a regular basis as they can quickly breakdown, contaminating the infill. Litter and flora collection should be carried out on (at least) a weekly basis.

Drag Brushing / Matting

Drag brushing or drag matting is an essential part of your synthetic pitch maintenance programme. The infill will naturally disperse towards the edge of the pitch away from the high traffic areas. As the infill acts as the wearing course, it is essential that it is returned to the high use areas in order to help prolong the life of the surface. The process is carried out by attaching a drag brush or drag mat to the rear of your grounds maintenance vehicle. This should ideally be carried out on a weekly basis, as per the Industry standard.

Power Sweeping

Contaminants that build up on the surface of your synthetic pitch will need removing regularly to avoid them compacting at the base of the carpet pile, affecting playing conditions and creating problems with drainage.

The power sweeping process cleans the synthetic surface by removing, cleaning and relaying the existing infill using a specialist machine. This process utilises the machines powerful filters to remove contaminants and dust, before laying the clean infill back into the surface. Once the clean infill has been laid, a drag brush at the rear of the machine evenly distributes the infill, improving both the appearance and performance of the synthetic surface.

Depending on the effectiveness of in-house maintenance and the age and overall condition of the pitch, either a bi-monthly or quarterly power sweeping service is advised as a minimum. Where no in-house maintenance takes place, or where maintenance is less effective, power sweeping should be carried out more frequently.

Chemical Treatments

Areas of your synthetic pitch which are affected by the growth of vegetation, moss and algae require specialist chemical treatment to kill the spores. Many facilities are surrounded by trees or vegetation which increase the potential for the development of moss or vegetation within the carpet. By treating the perimeter of the facility on a regular basis this will help to prevent the ingress of potential hazardous vegetation.

Any changes in health and safety legislation should be taken into consideration prior to the use of chemicals. Always refer to the supplier of the chemical to ensure its suitability for use.

Infill Levels

It is extremely important that infill levels are regularly monitored to ensure correct and even infill levels are maintained. The infill not only ensures the pitch performs in the manner it was designed to but in most cases also acts as the wearing course thus maintaining the correct infill levels will extend the life of the facility.

You should be aware that too much infill can occur on a pitch and will occur as the carpet pile wears down through general play (approx. 1mm per year). Normally natural migration of the infill will help to balance out this process, but from time to time it may be necessary to remove the excess infill and restore the correct levels.

Conversely, over a period of time infill can either compact inside the carpet pile or be removed via play or weathering at a rate greater than the wear of the carpet fibre. In this situation, infill levels must be increased to prevent health and safety issues and the premature wearing of the fibres. It is important that any increment of the granular infill be made with appropriate specified materials. Failing to do this will seriously impact on the viability and longevity of the facility.

Decompaction - Rubber/rubber & sand infill surfaces

Whilst the introduction of the new granular infill pitches has made for a revolution in the playing sports, the attention required by these new surfaces and their specialist infill should not be ignored. Infill of this nature can be pre-disposed to compact within the carpet pile, allowing for the beneficial characteristics of the design to become compromised. Such compaction of the infill is likely to lead to a greater volume of the pile exposed to abrasion, increasing surface wear, degeneration of the facility and a shortening of the carpet life. It is therefore imperative that a method of decompaction be introduced early into the maintenance schedule.

Summer Deep Clean

The Summer Deep Clean process is the ideal way to back up the regular maintenance during the summer months. This process works by getting much deeper into the carpet, cleaning the existing infill and then re-dressing the infill back into the carpet. This process is best carried out in the Summer months as the infill needs to be as dry as possible to be effective.

Surface Rejuvenation

This process gets deeper into the carpet pile. The robust nature of this operation will de-compact infill as well as lifting the pile removing dust, debris and broken-down carpet fibres. Such material will all migrate to the base of the carpet over a period of time and act to compromise the draining co-efficient of the carpet. This operation complements regular Power Sweeping visits and is most effective during the summer months when the pitch surface is dry. This specialist process can take anything from one day to two weeks, depending on the size of the pitch, the level of contamination present and the age of the facility.

Vehicles

Do not allow vehicles or equipment with narrow wheels or tyres to run over the surface. All equipment should be tested prior to use to ensure no grooves or carpet rucking is evident.

Footwear & General Care

Always ensure that the correct footwear is worn on your synthetic grass pitch. If the pitch is used for multi-sports, a studded boot with a stud length on 1/4 of an inch will be satisfactory. METAL STUDS MUST NOT BE USED. All footwear should be clean when entering the facility.

Your synthetic pitch and its surrounding area should be a no-smoking zone as a discarded cigarette will melt the surface fibres, leaving an unsightly mark. Chewing gum and the use of glass bottles should also be banned.

Signage

Appropriate signs should be erected displaying information to the user on simple rules which need to be observed to ensure everyone can enjoy the pitch in a safe environment.