

# SPORTEXE® INFILLED SYNTHETIC TURF SYSTEM CARE CARD

## GENERAL CARE

Like most sports surfaces, this Sportexe® synthetic turf system requires scheduled cleaning and maintenance to ensure the appearance of the surface. The frequency of this cleaning schedule depends on the desired performance, the type of surface and its uses, the hours of operation, and foot traffic volume of the facility. The closer this schedule is followed, the better the appearance and performance of the synthetic turf system. For an outdoor installation, rain is your best cleanser. Rainfall gently cleans the fibers of dust, pollen, and airborne pollutants in a way that is difficult to duplicate in any other fashion. In areas where rainfall is scarce, or during prolonged periods of drought, an occasional watering is beneficial to soak and thus cleanse the synthetic turf system. However, the most obvious cleaning needed is the removal of litter deposited by users and spectators at events held on the field. Here are some tips for maintaining your synthetic turf system:

- Keep trash and litter containers on site - make sure there are enough containers to eliminate overflow.
- Route traffic in such a way as to minimize mud and dirt from tracking onto the surface.
- Set-up drinks for athletes during practice or game breaks – off the synthetic turf system if possible.
- Enforce a smoke free environment and discourage the use of chewing tobacco, gum, and sunflower seeds.

## STAIN & RESIDUE REMOVAL

Sportexe® fibers are among the most stain resistant in the industry. Most stains on our fields are not true stains but rather **residue** of foreign matter which must be promptly and thoroughly removed.

The first rule is promptness. It is much easier to clean up a fresh oil spill before it has time to dry and harden. Remove any solid or paste-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 can be very useful and should be stored on site. Such dry absorbents can be swept or vacuumed up.

Sportexe® surfaces have good resistance to staining. However, it is important to realize they are only one part of a sophisticated system of various components designed for overall field performance. Some cleaning agents that are safe for the fiber can be harmful to other components of the system.

**Cleaning agents** are grouped into two sets, one of which can be used in liberal amounts directly on the turf surface (mild cleaning agent), and the second of which should only be applied by rubbing a cloth soaked in the cleaner, in order to minimize penetration of possibly harmful agents below the turf fibers (strong cleaning agent).

## Procedure for Removing Stains and Residue with **Mild Cleaning Agent**

Most stains commonly associated with synthetic turf systems can be classified as “water borne” stains. These stains are best removed using a solution of powdered laundry detergent and warm water, which can generally be applied to infilled systems without any special precautions.

### TYPICAL WATER BORNE STAINS

Acid	Cola	Latex Paint
Alcohol	Dye	Milk
Alkali	Food Coloring	Mustard
Beer	Fruit Juice	Tea
Blood	Gatorade	*Thimerosal
Butter	Glue	Urine
Chocolate	Ice Cream	Water Colors
Coffee	Ketchup	

1. Create a solution of powdered laundry detergent and warm water. Use one teaspoon of detergent to one pint of warm water.
2. Brush the residue with a stiff brush.
3. Scrub the area with soap and water solution.
4. Rinse the area thoroughly with clear water to remove all traces of soap.
5. Dry with absorbent towel(s), if necessary.

**Note:** A 3% solution of ammonia in water may be used for more severe cleaning problems. **Household ammonia is 3%. Industrial aqua ammonia is 33%.** If industrial ammonia is used, dilute nine parts water to one part industrial ammonia.



### Procedure for Removing Stains and Residue with Strong Cleaning Agents

In the second group of cleaners, where agents must be applied sparingly, care must be taken to avoid penetration into the turf fibers. Cleaners will eat away at the turf backing.

NON WATER BORNE STAINS		
Asphalt	Floor Wax	Rubber Cleat
Ball-point	Grease	Marks
Chewing Gum	Lipstick	Shoe Polish
Crayon	Motor Oil	Suntan Oil
Cooking Oil	Paraffin wax	

1. Sponge with Perchloroethylene (dry cleaning solution). Mineral spirits or a grease spot-remover will also work.
2. Blot with absorbent towels.

### Procedure for Removing Specific Types of Stains and Residue

**Chewing Gum:** Can be removed by freezing. Spray with refrigerant aerosol and scrape to remove residue. Aerosol packs of refrigerant are available from carpet cleaning suppliers for this purpose.

**Animal Waste:** Mix white distilled vinegar with an equal amount of water to neutralize. Flush thoroughly with water after application.

**Fungus or Mold Spots:** Using a sponge, apply a 1% solution of hydrogen peroxide in water to treat. Flush thoroughly with water after application.

**Nail Polish:** Sponge with acetone to remove.

**Oil-Based Paints:** Immediately sponge with turpentine or paint remover (apply sparingly). Blot with detergent and water. Sponge with cold water to remove detergent. Scrape excess. Sponge with perchlorethylene (dry cleaning solvent). Repeat steps as necessary.

**CAUTION: Do not use high pressure water spray with stream force in excess of 500 PSI (pounds per square inch) as this can severely damage the turf or redistribute the infill and create a safety hazard for players.** Mineral spirits and other petroleum-based solvents are flammable. Therefore, do not smoke or permit open flames when using these solvents. Be sure the area is well ventilated where solvent cleaners are used. For more difficult stains, it may be necessary to clean with both the detergent solution and the dry-cleaning fluid. For such stains as paint, shoe dye and model airplane glue – a commercial carpet cleaner should be consulted.

Avoid the use of any solution containing bleach, highly caustic detergent cleaners (pH above 9), high acid cleaners (pH below 5) on any Sportex® surface, as they can cause damage or discoloration to its components.

**Important Reminder:** When trying any type of cleaning solution on your surface always try it on a scrap piece of turf or a small area on the outside of the field, rather than a high concentration area. Let the cleaner sit for a day to make certain that it doesn't destroy the surface.

### DAILY CARE

Daily Care is truly on-going care, and it does not necessarily mean care each and every day. The amount and frequency of daily care required is dependent on the surface, volume of use, and the type of use. We recommend that every Sportex® synthetic turf system be periodically vacuumed to remove litter, dust, etc.

Light trash (paper, peanut shells, sunflower seeds, athletic tape, etc.) can be removed most easily by gently using a shop vacuum and angling the hose so not to vacuum up the infilled material.

**When using machines to remove litter, several points should be observed:**

#### Sweepers

The sweeper should have synthetic fiber bristles such as nylon or polypropylene. The minimum brush length should be 2.5". The maximum bristle diameter should be .030". **The brush must contain no metal or wire.** Metal fibers can fall out and cause injuries to players and can also damage the surface.

#### Brush Setting

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 turf pile or backing.**

Too low a setting can damage the turf. Vacuum cleaners are not recommended to remove mud. Contact your Sportex® representative if you have any questions about the type of machine to use or brush settings.

#### Temperature Limitations

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

#### Turf Loading Limitations

Brushing and brush cleaning may require several trips over the field to finish the operation. Any sweeper that weighs more than 300 lbs. should have pneumatic tires with a maximum tire pressure of 35 pounds per square inch (PSI). 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.



### Exhaust Fumes

For outdoor use we recommend either electric or propane. The type of fuel or power used by a sweeper is of no major importance for outdoor use. However, if the sweeper has an internal combustion engine, make certain that the hot engine exhaust is not discharged down toward the playing surface. Hot objects can damage the field and engine exhaust may soil it. Check to make sure that the sweeper is designed in such a way that a hot muffler or exhaust pipe cannot drop onto the surface.

### Oil and Other Fluid Spillage

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

**CAUTION:** Electrically powered units may not be properly grounded, do not use them on wet or damp surfaces.

### Frequency

The removal of loose rubbish and surface dust should be performed on an as-needed basis, generally about once a week depending on usage.

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## GROOMING OF INFILLED TURF

We recommends that every Sportexe® synthetic turf system have routine brushing every 80 to 200 hours of usage. Routine brushing is accomplished with a "drag broom" suitable for brushing the surface. If you do not have a "drag broom" please contact your Sportexe® representative to purchase one.

Infilled surfaces do require grooming. Additional grooming may be necessary only when and if the infill has become displaced due to excessive use in certain areas of the surface such as a goal and heavy traffic areas.

Routine brushing keeps the surface free from debris, but also maintains your Sportexe® synthetic turf system at its optimum performance. Routine Brushing simultaneously achieves three objectives:

1. Keeps infill uniform in its distribution
2. Ensures that the exposed part of the fiber is uniform in it's direction and stays upright
3. Helps remove litter, leaves, dirt, etc.

*The realized benefits from routine brushing are:*

1. Consistent footing and ball bounce throughout the surface
2. Maximum aesthetic appeal
3. Lengthened life expectancy of the synthetic turf system

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## DOs & DON'Ts

It is good business to protect the investment in your synthetic turf system. To do this most effectively, **Keep it Clean.** Sportexe® synthetic turf systems are designed to resist both wear and exposure to the elements. The effectiveness of their materials, design and construction is demonstrated by the long life of fields under heavy use in many climates, wet and dry, hot and humid, cold and dry. Take the following precautionary measures:

### DO:

- Control access to the synthetic turf system
- Keep the synthetic turf system and close adjacent areas clean and free of litter, mud and debris
- Post signs prohibiting smoking and carrying food or drink onto the synthetic turf system
- Observe load limits for static and rolling loads, especially when the surface is wet
- Repair minor damage promptly
- Follow suggested maintenance and cleaning procedures
- Contact your Sportexe® representative for assistance with repairs, renovation work, or any further technical details.

### DON'T:

- Use the surface for anything other than its intended use at time of purchase
  - Allow any unnecessary vehicle traffic
  - Allow heavy static loads
  - Use fireworks
  - Store materials such as drums, lumber, equipment, etc. on surface
  - Allow golfing, shot putting, javelin or discus throwing, or the use of long spike track shoes on the surface
  - Allow open flames, welding, etc.
  - Use a wire brush in any form
  - Use cleaning equipment, materials, and methods not authorized by Sportexe®
  - Use high-pressure water sprays exceeding 500 PSI
  - Allow vehicles with non-pneumatic tires
  - Allow the introduction of in-fills or impregnated layers other than supplied or authorized by Sportexe®
  - Allow the use of bikes, skateboards, lawn mowers, etc.
  - Repair or maintain the surface with anything other than materials approved or supplied by Sportexe®
  - Allow any unauthorized use
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## **STATIC & TRANSIENT ROLLING LOADS**

As a general rule, no long-term static load of more than 3 PSI (300 lbs./sq.ft), nor any transient rolling load of more than 35 PSI should be applied to any Sportexe® surface (foam pad or elastic layer underpad). Rolling loads of up to 30 PSI are acceptable on an occasional basis. (The loading of a pneumatic-tired vehicle is approximately equal to the air pressure in its tires.)

It is good practice to eliminate any unnecessary long-term static loads. Sheets of 3/4 inch exterior plywood or pieces of 2' x 10' lumber may be used to spread major static loads and thus minimize the risk of damage to the turf system. **NOTE:** Under static loads, the surface should first be covered with a load spreader such as polyethylene sheeting to keep it clean. New plywood may contain materials that will seep out and stain the turf if it is exposed to water, therefore a polypropylene barrier should be used under the plywood to prevent this from happening.

For further information or for information on snow removal and painting your Sportexe® synthetic turf system please refer to the **Maintenance Manual**.

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## **CONCLUSION**

The information contained in this Maintenance Guide is intended to reflect the most current thinking, knowledge and procedures for the proper use, care and maintenance of Sportexe synthetic turf systems. Be sure that individuals responsible for your field's care and maintenance are thoroughly familiar with its contents and follow its recommended guidelines. Contact your Sportexe® representative for further assistance.

This Maintenance Guide is intended for Sportexe® customer use only, in connection with Sportexe synthetic turf systems. In no event will Sportexe®, its related partnerships or corporations, or the officers, directors, agents or employees thereof be liable to any third party for any decision made or action taken in reliance on the information contained herein or for any consequential, special or similar damages, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

