



Maintenance **Manual**



XtremeTurf
XtremeLawn



Xtreme Turf Maintenance Manual

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General care & maintenance instructions

Introduction

All over the world more and more sports clubs and federations are doing themselves – as well as their players and coaches – a huge favor by deciding to have one or several Xtreme turf fields installed. Players and coaches are particularly enthusiastic about Xtreme Turf playing characteristics, which results in a higher quality game with fewer worries about injuries. Clubs and federations, on the other hand, are delighted with the all-year round availability and incredible durability of their Xtreme Turf fields.

The need for maintenance

Strange as it may seem, there is one important aspect that is often overlooked. Just as any other sports facility, an Xtreme Turf field needs care and maintenance to stay in good shape – grounds men and women need not worry about becoming obsolete. Where people fail to do the necessary work on a regular basis, fields will tend to start looking ragged, especially in those places that are heavily played upon (e.g. in the goal-mouth and central areas). This effect is caused by the gradual dislodgment of rubber particles in these areas, which of course, is not a pretty sight. But apart from aesthetics, there are even more important reasons why this should not be allowed to happen; the very playability; usability and longevity that people love about their Xtreme Turf fields are

Why maintenance is a must

- Keep your Xtreme Turf field in good condition
- Avoid degradation of heavily used playing areas.
- Avoid general compaction of the infill
- Ensure maximum playability, usability and longevity
- Live up to your field's guarantee requirements

compromised. What's more, if fields are not or insufficiently maintained any guarantee becomes void and FIFA and/or UEFA criteria (if applicable) may no longer be met.

The cost of neglect

We know from experience that people considering the purchase of one or more Xtreme Turf fields rarely stop to think about the additional funds needed for care and maintenance. And even if they do, they often don't take it seriously enough and tend to leave the job to cheap second-rate parties. Only to be startled in a relatively short period of time when constant neglect causes serious field quality problems to arise. Unfortunately, by then it's usually too late to turn the tide; the financial damage has been done.

This booklet

We've created this booklet to give you a clear overview of the general maintenance activities required to keep any Xtreme Turf field up to scratch. Please note that these instructions do not take into account possible differences due to climatic circumstances and varied intensity of use. Where and if needed, additional instructions will be given individually by our local representative.



Routine upkeep

Immediately after installation

- Once installed an Xtreme Turf field can be played upon immediately. However, during the first few weeks it's best to keep any heavy equipment and vehicle traffic off the field and reduce vacuum sweeping to a minimum.
- Please note that it will take several weeks for the granular fill to settle and the field to reach optimum playing condition.

Daily

- Level the infill in the field by sweeping it with a broom on a daily basis. The infill should be about 15 mm below the fiber tips (the so-called 'free pile') all over the field.
- Daily sweeping is especially vital during the first month after the field's installation in order to achieve consistent fill levels.
- Insufficient sweeping will encourage weeds and moss to establish themselves in the fertile but unwanted detritus left behind by birds, the wind, or players with muddy shoes. This, again, leads to compaction and the potential for algal growth. As a result even more moss will develop.
- Do not use any tools that may damage the field and do not use solvents like acetone or cleaning materials containing 5% alcohol. If in doubt ask the advice of your local representative.
- Topsoil and sand from elsewhere may lead to compaction of the fill and damage to the surface. Prevent players' feet from carrying soil/mud onto the field by using a walk-off mat that is kept clean at all times.

Weekly

- Pay special attention to the most heavily used areas (goal-mouth, penalty spot and corner areas). Add new rubber fill particles where necessary to the recommended depth.
- Every loose foreign object, no matter how small, can damage your Xtreme Turf field by abrading the fibres and/or contaminating the fill. Remove all leaves, twigs, paper, chewing gum, athletic tape, bottles and any other waste items on a regular basis.



Biweekly

- One of the functions of the rubber fill between the fibres serves is to keep the fibers upright. No matter how well you clean your field, there will always be a certain degree of compaction of the rubber. As a result, (rain) water will be drained less efficiently which, in turn, leads to the formation of algae. Brushing the field keeps the rubber loose and allows the water to be drained quickly, thus preventing algae from forming.
- The ideal brushing method is called 'cross brushing'. Cross-brushing means dragging a special broom against the grain of the field's fibres. By doing this you 'lift up' the fibers rather than matting them. As a result the field's traction/ball roll characteristics remain at their optimum. Furthermore, cross brushing brings foreign particles and loose grains to the surface of the field to be swept or blown away. Using an average all-purpose vehicle cross brushing a standard sized football field takes about an hour.
- Always brush the field in opposite directions, as continuous brushing in one single direction will produce unacceptable pile lean, with corresponding detrimental effects on the playing characteristics.
- The less a field is swept, the more it will need to be brushed.

Quarterly

Perform a visual inspection to see if your field's seams are all in good condition. Pay special attention to the seams in the penalty spot. If you encounter any problems, please contact your local supplier. Do not attempt to repair the seams yourself.

Yearly

Once a year, your Xtreme Turf field needs additional specialist maintenance to prevent the rubber fill from compacting. This additional procedure will ensure all fibre particles and dirt are removed from the fill. The fibres are brushed so as to 'open up' their general structure. Subsequently the cleaned-up fill is returned to the field and restored to its original level. Your local supplier carries out this specialist maintenance procedure.

As necessary

Repairs: any damage to the field should be repaired as quickly as possible to prevent the situation from deteriorating. This is never a do-it-yourself job; please contact your supplier. Snow removal: when clearing snow using a snow plough leave a layer of about 2 to 3 cm so as to protect your field from mechanical damage. The final layer of snow can be removed by brushing. If snowfall is a regular occurrence ensure there is sufficient space around the field to place the snow removed from the field.

Maintenance log

When you decide to invest in an Xtreme Turf field, you obviously want to use it for the longest possible time. Unfortunately, it's often hard to predict the intensity with which the field will be used even after the first few years have passed. Changing circumstances may lead to new levels of 'foot traffic' – and, consequently, other maintenance needs. That's why it's important to take into consideration when purchasing your field projected minimum and maximum playing hours.

The maintenance schedule below is meant to assist in clarifying how the number of playing hours influences maintenance needs.

Suggested Maintenance Work	Playing hours per week:				Reason:
	< 10 hrs	10 - 20 hrs	20 - 30 hrs	30 - 40 hrs	
Litter removal	daily	daily	daily	daily	Avoid damage by paper, bottles, chewing gum, athletic tap and such.
Refilling heavily used areas	weekly	weekly	daily	daily	Keep rubber infill even and at the right level.
Brushing heavily used areas	weekly	weekly	weekly	daily	Keep fibres in the optimum upright position.
Total surface brushing	biweekly	biweekly	weekly	weekly	Keep surface in perfect condition.
Leaves, twigs, moss, weed removal	weekly	weekly	weekly	weekly	Avoid pollution and beginning compaction.
Seams inspection	quarterly	quarterly	bimonthly	bimonthly	Avoid field damage by faulty seams.
Specialist maintenance	yearly	yearly	1/2 yearly	1/2 yearly	Maintain playing properties and performance.

Cleaning and stain removal

General

- Keep trash and litter containers on site and make sure there are enough containers so as to eliminate overflow.
- Route field access traffic in such a way as to minimize mud and dirt tracking on to the field.
- Set up drinks for players during practice breaks off the field itself, if possible.
- If possible, enforce a smoke-free environment.

Brush type

The sweeper should have synthetic fibre bristles such as nylon or polyolefin. The brush must contain no metal or wire!

Brush setting

The optimum brush setting will 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 fibres 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 and disturb the fill. Vacuum cleaners are not recommended to remove mud. Contact our local representative if you have questions about your brush setting.

Temperature limitations

Never use a motorized vacuum sweeper during the heat of the day if the ambient temperature exceeds 32 °C or 100 °F.

Field loading limitations

Brushing and brush cleaning may require several trips over the field to finish the operation. Any sweeper that weighs more than 135 kgs should have pneumatic tires with a maximum tire pressure of 35 psi (or 2.5 kpc per square centimeter). Do not park vehicles on the field, especially in the heat of the day, or leave vehicles on a wet field for long periods of time.

Vehicle exhaust

Never leave a parked vehicle idling on the field. Make certain the hot engine exhaust is never discharged in to the field when using any kind of vehicle.

Oil spillage, etc.

Prevent lubricating oil, grease, transmission fluids, etc. from dripping or spilling on your field surface during sweepings. Such spills can discolour the field. Proper maintenance procedures should be observed in this regard. Battery acid and other fluids should not be allowed on the field. Never

change or add fluids to maintenance equipment while on the field surface.

Stain removal

Polyethylene fibres are among the most stain resistant fibres known to man because most stains are moisture borne and polyethylene tends not to absorb moisture. Hence, most stains on Xtreme Turf fields are not true stains but rather residues of foreign matter that must be promptly and thoroughly removed. Most stains 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. For advice concerning the removal of specific types of stains please contact our local representative.

Load limits

Neither long-term static load of more than 2 psi, nor any transient or dynamic load of more than 35 psi should be allowed on the surface. The loading of a pneumatic-tired vehicle is approximately equal to the air pressure in its tires. Hence, it is good practice to eliminate any unnecessary long-term parking and loading and to keep the necessary ones as low and brief as possible.

Snow removal

Generally snow and ice 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 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 build-up and will reduce the risk of ice from cold winds whipping across a damp,

newly cleared surface. Ice removal is more difficult so the prevention of ice build-up is important. Use only pneumatic tires on equipment used in the removal of snow and ice. Avoid using a tarp on the field during freezing weather. Tarps can freeze to the surface by means of condensation and thus can be very difficult to remove for a scheduled event.

Ice removal

In some cases it may be necessary to route a weighted lawn roller over the field to break up ice. The broken ice can then be swept off the field. Generally if the sun is out and the ice or frost is not excessive, it tends to melt rapidly, especially if players use the field.



Watering the surface

In many instances, coaches, players and trainers prefer to wet the field down during use in order to lower the temperature/humidity index. This is a good idea because in periods of very hot weather, a wet field provides evaporation, which indeed lowers the temperature of the field rapidly. The temperature of a wet synthetic field should match that of a natural grass field in the same area. The temperature of a wet synthetic field should match that of a natural grass field in the same area. Remember that evaporation can be very rapid (up to 5700 liters of water per hour on an average sized field) so with long uses of the turf, an additional sprinkling may become necessary. If you wet the field, distribute the water evenly over the area to be used. Aim to simply dampen the surface, not soak or saturate it. Never use water from a polluted supply.

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