



SYNTHETIC TURF CARE AND MAINTENANCE

While synthetic turf is considered to be virtually maintenance free, there are certain conditions and applications in which routine maintenance is needed in order to maximize the lifespan of your turf material and keep it in optimal working condition and looking pristine. Below are general care and maintenance instructions for common synthetic turf applications. If you have a unique application or have questions about your particular product please call our office at (800) 592-0405 or email us at support@integrityturf.com

PET TURF MAINTENANCE

Aside from commercial sporting applications, pet areas typically require the most frequent care in order to maintain a clean and odor free synthetic turf environment. Controlling pet odors starts with proper planning - before your installation, to ensure you are using the best materials and installation methods for a pet friendly area. These methods and materials may include specialized infill materials such as Zeolite or anti-microbial infill, or, enhanced drainage applications such as a drainage mat, french drain, or non-use of weed barrier. In any case, maintaining your pet turf will require routine cleaning, disinfecting and deodorizing.

- **Cleaning Pet Odors and discharge:** We recommend waiting to remove solid waste until it is firm enough to grab without smearing or deforming into the turf fibers. Once the waste is picked up, rinse the area with a water + disinfectant mixture, such as water and vinegar mixed 50/50 or one of our authorized enzymatic turf cleaners such as BioTurf (sold online at www.integrityturf.com). Pet urine is the primary cause of odor in synthetic turf and requires regular treatments with a turf cleaner. Depending on your product, installation components, amount of use and weather conditions, you may need to treat your turf every couple of weeks or maybe only a couple times a year. In any case, do not use harsh chemicals such as bleach on your turf.
- **Enhancing Drainage:** A critical component of cleaning your synthetic turf is having good drainage. Most turf products have a hole-punched perforated backing system that drains efficiently at ~30-gallons per hour over a square yard. This flow-rate, however, can be greatly diminished by blockage of the drainage holes from dirt, over-compacted infill and even dog hair. We recommend periodically grooming your synthetic turf with a power broom, grandi rake, or push broom to re-erect the turf fibers and decompress infill. Grooming your turf will also help lift pet hair which slows down drainage and produces conditions that promote bacteria growth.

GENERAL CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS

In many cases, synthetic turf is installed in landscape areas as a low maintenance alternative to a natural lawn. This applications do not receive much traffic and will usually not require much in terms of maintenance, however, it is still recommended to clear leaves and debris, and spray the turf occasionally to clean off dirt, dust, animal neighborhood or wild animal feces and to generally keep the turf looking fresh.

- **Clearing Debris:** We recommend clearing leaves and other debris using either a broad toothed leaf rake or air-blower. If you use a rake, we caution against using smaller-toothed metal rakes as they can be harsh against the turf fibers and snag curled thatch yarns. It is preferred to use rakes with a large, plastic tooth.
- **Rinsing Your Turf:** Hopefully your synthetic turf gets lots of use and love, and with that comes drink spills, candy drops, mud tracks and anything else life can drag into the yard. For this reason, it is recommended to rinse your turf periodically or after events to clean off any sticky stuff, grime or bacteria. Most of the time, simply rinsing periodically with water is sufficient to freshen up the turf, however, we do recommend using a disinfectant to kill any bacteria. You can use common kitchen detergents, a 50/50 vinegar and water mixture or specialized synthetic turf cleaners to confidently kill off any bacteria. Avoid using harsh chemicals such as bleach directly on the turf as it could break down the chemical strength of the turf fibers and shorten the lifespan if your product.
- **Grooming Your Turf:** Matting of synthetic turf fibers is a common concern and can occur in areas of high use or in areas that are more frequently traveled than others causing a wear pattern. To assist with these areas, we recommend investing in a quality push broom (or even a power broom depending on the lawn size and usage) in order to groom and re-erect the turf fibers. To do this, simple broom against the synthetic turf grain with some pressure to help lift the fibers upward. Continue and repeat this process until the fibers are standing. Doing this in warmer weather (above 70 degrees) will work best as the fibers are more pliable.