



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 and spectators at events held on the field. Good housekeeping practices will minimize these problems:

- Keep trash and litter containers on site make sure there are enough containers to eliminate overflow.
- Route field traffic in such a way as to minimize mud and dirt tracking on to the field.
- Set up drinks for athletes during practice breaks off the field itself, if possible.
- Enforce a smoke-free environment, if possible, and discourage the use of tobacco products such as chewing tobacco.

LITTER REMOVAL

Paper, peanut shells, sunflower seeds, athletic tape, paper, etc., should and can be removed most easily with either backpack blower or a vacuum cleaner immediately after any event.

When using this equipment, several points should be observed so the equipment does not damage the turf.

BRUSH SETTING

The vacuum cleaner 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.)

Proper cleaning should go against the grain along the seams and try not to cross over of the seams.

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

GENERAL

Polyethylene pile fibers are among the most stain resistant fibers. Most “stains” on Sporturf® fields are not true “stains” but rather residues of foreign matter that must be promptly and thoroughly removed.

Such “stains” on wet fields 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 kitty 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 playing fields 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”

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

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

Follow directions below:

❖ **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 perchechlorethylene (dry cleaning solvent).

❖ **PROBLEM:** Tar and Asphalt

PROCEDURE: Scrape excess. Sponge with perchechlorethylene (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, Moss or to disinfect

Vital Oxide comes ready to use. Do not use high pressure water spray with stream force in excess of 2500 PSI as this can severely damage the turf. **Vital Oxide** is an EPA registered disinfectant.

Protect Your Turf

1. Spread the load!

Remember that chairs and high heel shoes create high psi levels on the turf and put the system at risk. The basic precaution is to keep long term static loads below 2.46kg/cm² by means of load spreaders. The best, most economical load spreader is outdoor plywood. Be sure to spread a polyethylene sheet under the plywood to protect the turf. Sheets of plywood are ideal and readily available. 19 mm thick plywood is recommended as long as the loads are not excessive (such as a concert stage or sound systems). If chairs are placed directly on the turf, inspect chair leg bottoms to be sure jagged or sharp ends cannot cut the turf. Metal chair legs should be protected with rubber tips. Wooden legs should be free of any projection sharp enough to cut the turf. Porta Flour® by Sport Court® is an easy for use roll out product approved for Controlled Products.

2. Ban Open Flames!

No such acts should be allowed on the turf for obvious reasons.

3. Clean Up Immediately!

Animal waste should be removed and the area flushed thoroughly. The field should be inspected for damage so that small problems do not become major repair cases.

4. Ban Smoking!

Cigarettes cannot ignite the turf but they can damage the turf. If large crowds are expected, a cigarette ban should be enforced. However, in these cases, even if heavy loads will not be present on the turf, the turf should be covered.

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL

SNOW AND ICE ARE NOT HARMFUL TO ARTIFICIAL TURF and generally should be left to melt 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 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.

Event Preparation

Controlled Products Turf fields are designed to be multi-purpose and as such host numerous non-athletic events such as graduation exercises, assemblies, convocations, shows, concerts, circuses, etc.

Generally, two areas of concern should be recognized:

1. These events can create loads on the turf that exceed the surface load limit set forth in the warranty and in the load limits outlines in this manual.
2. Large crowds and act on the turf generally fall outside the “designated uses” for the system and damage of the turf can occur unless it is fully protected.