



European Synthetic Turf
Organisation

Care & Maintenance of synthetic turf sports fields

*Simple steps to ensure
high performance and durability*

ENSURING QUALITY TURF

You have just installed a new synthetic turf sports field meeting the ESTO quality standards (EN 15330-1). Accounting for the latest developments in our industry, these rigorous standards are designed to ensure a long and productive life for your playing area.

However, to prolong its performance characteristics and durability – to ensure the maximum return on your investment – you will need to schedule a maintenance programme.

The detailed maintenance manual provided by your synthetic turf supplier will define the appropriate care regime for your field,



and it is a good idea to discuss this – and the equipment you will need – at the outset. If you follow the directions closely you will ensure many years of top quality performance.

While this regime will vary according to the local climatic conditions and how much your field is used, it will consist of two levels of work:

- Routine inspection and maintenance
- Annual inspection and special care procedures

ROUTINE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

This work is generally carried out by the user's maintenance team – trained by the supplier as recommended by FIFA –, with no need for special contractors.

On a regular basis, daily and weekly, conduct a visual inspection to assess the state of the field, concentrating on:

- **Debris**, such as litter, plus leaves, moss, branches, mud and other organic material. All this should be removed as soon as possible using appropriate equipment – from leaf blowers and rakes to sprinklers. Weeds growing along the edges of the field should be pulled out. Ask your supplier for advice before using herbicides.



- **Surface damage**, such as loose seams, which should be dealt with as quickly as possible, before the problem spreads. Loose seams should be repaired by professionals.

- **Infill**, because stability is important to sustain a level playing surface. Regular brushing is effective, equalising the infill and straightening the surface "pile". It is important to take particular notice of high-usage places such as the goal area, and in particular the penalty spot, where the infill may need to be topped up from time to time.

Every installation could be different of course, so it is important to follow your supplier's maintenance advice which is tailor-made for your particular field.

ANNUAL INSPECTION AND SPECIAL CARE PROCEDURES

In addition to the routine programme, you need to schedule an annual in-depth inspection by an accredited expert, recommended by your supplier. The inspector will also supervise additional maintenance and special care work as required, such as

- De-compacting and levelling the infill
- Intensive cleaning of the infill
- Topping up of infill material
- Repair of damaged or worn-out areas

Your inspector and supplier will specify and arrange for the special machinery and equipment needed to carry out these tasks.



MAXIMISING THE RETURN ON YOUR INVESTMENT

Modern synthetic turf sports fields are designed to last for 10 years – much more if they are well-maintained, but much less if they are not.

In addition, your supplier's guarantees depend on routine and annual maintenance being carried out according to the programme agreed at the outset.

A proper maintenance regime will keep the surface in top condition and identify problems early, avoiding expensive emergency work – ensuring that your sports field is always available for use.



PROBLEMS WHICH YOU CAN PREVENT BY REGULAR MAINTENANCE

Standing water → Prevent by de-compacting

Uneven infill surface → Prevent by regular brushing and topping up

Weeds → Prevent by regular cleaning

Dirty surface → Prevent by regular cleaning

Moss build-up → Prevent by regular cleaning



ABOUT ESTO

The European Synthetic Turf Organisation (ESTO) represents 90 per cent of the €1 billion European market, covering the industry from raw materials to installation.

Based in Brussels, ESTO acts as a forum for the industry, setting standards and dealing with emerging issues. For buyers and end users it is an objective resource, offering wide-ranging information including research, statistics and advice.

Other ESTO advice papers are available from your supplier or from our web site.

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