



Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Synthetic Turf

According to the maintenance guidelines published by the Synthetic Turf Council, the rubber pellets used in synthetic (artificial) turf migrate away from their initial position, depending on how often and how intensely the field is used as well as how well the field is maintained. Field maintenance is crucial not only to extending the usable lifetime of the field, but also to keeping pellets from migrating off the field where they become environmental contaminants.

Implement the following synthetic turf Best Management Practices to protect stormwater quality:

- **Do not let rubber infill pellets leave the field and become litter. Post signs on the field asking that any *person or equipment* on the field must remove rubber pieces from their person or equipment before exiting the field. Provide brush mats at several field entrances, and instruct players to clean their shoes upon departure from the field as well as removing any particles from their clothing.** The brush mats can also be used for players to clean their shoes before entering the field, which may help extend the lifetime of the field.
- **Provide trash and litter containers on site** and make sure there are enough containers to eliminate overflow.
- **Make sure the appropriate number of staff are assigned to regular maintenance tasks. Make sure those staff sweep and remove rubber pellets in areas where they accumulate, such as the edges of the field.** The Synthetic Turf Council recommends one hour of inspection and maintenance for every 10 hours of playing time. Particularly intense or rough play may merit more frequent inspection.
- **Keep a maintenance activity log.**
- **Consult an irrigation specialist to ensure the field will not become oversaturated if it is irrigated.¹**
- **Ensure that all surrounding surface water is directed away from the field.**

Refer to the Synthetic Turf Council's *Guidelines for Maintenance of In-filled Synthetic Turf Sports Fields*² for further detail on maintenance activities, including proper sweeping methodology ('Groom the Surface' section).

¹ Follow manufacturer's irrigation instructions.

² http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.syntheticurfCouncil.org/resource/resmgr/files/stc_guidelines_for_maintenance.pdf

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