

ARTIFICIAL SPORTS SURFACE MAINTENANCE FOR:



Seam Repair



Surface Inspection & Evaluation



Infill Application



Multi-use Games Area



Tennis Court Before Rejuvenation



Tennis Court After Rejuvenation



Tennis



Rugby



Football



Hockey



Synthetic Clay



3G Pitch Cleaning

SSP Ltd carries out cleaning and maintenance of all types of synthetic grass sports and leisure surfaces including tennis courts, five-a-side, hockey, football and multi-sport pitches.

Techniques developed over many years allow SSP to provide economical and professional options for schools, local authorities, private court owners, clubs and pitch managers who want to keep their surface in top playing condition and extend the life of the artificial grass surface.



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Rejuvenation • Renovation • Infill Cleaning • Decompaction • Surface Repair
Moss & Algal Treatment • Infill Application • Surface Inspection & Evaluation



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Rejuvenation • Renovation • Cleaning
 Infill Extraction • Surface Inspection • Carpet Repair
 Infill Application • Moss, Algal & Weed Treatments
 Brushing & Sweeping

HELP: Extend The Life Of Your Surface • Maintain The Playing Qualities
 AVOID: Poor Drainage • Increased Wear • Infill Contamination
 Poor Appearance • Algal & Moss Build-up • Infill Compaction
 Slippery Conditions • Player Risk

PROBLEMS THAT CAN OCCUR:

Synthetic grass whether sand filled, sand dressed, rubber filled or water based will suffer a number of problems over time if not cleaned and maintained properly.

INFILL COMPACTION

Filled synthetic grass will suffer from compaction. The infill will, over time, be driven into the synthetic carpet by use and climatic conditions. The voids between the infill particles will become smaller allowing water to drain through at a slower rate and at the same time the surface will become harder. On some systems the carpet fibres will be left unsupported, bend over and break increasing the wear of the surface.

CONTAMINATION

Synthetic grass, filled or non-filled, will become contaminated.

However well maintained the surface is, simple brushing techniques can only help keep the surface in good condition. Sand is a natural filter and contaminants such as worn carpet fibre dust, ball abrasion, mud and organic matter will be washed through the surface and trapped in the voids of the sand particles. This usually happens in the top 5-10mm on sand filled systems and, in conjunction with infill compaction, will begin to form an impenetrable crust blocking drainage and making the playing surface hard. This will happen typically within 6-8 years if the surface is not cleaned regularly. Evidence will be seen in the flooding or slow drainage of the surface, green tide marks over the surface and increased ball speed and bounce together with complaints by users of a hard surface and irregular ball performance.

Moss and algal spores can establish themselves within all systems. These spores can make the surface look unsightly as well as helping to prevent drainage and making the surface slippery.

In some cases these spores can combine to produce a slime commonly known as 'algal squidge'. These spores can establish themselves not simply within the synthetic grass carpet but within the shockpad or base below making it difficult to reach them. Given the right conditions the spores will bloom leaving a dark green slime on the surface which is very slippery and dangerous. Once removed from the surface established spores within the system can easily and quickly bloom again to produce the condition over and over again. The slime is not always easily visible, and again blocks drainage which in turn encourages its own flowering conditions.

EXCESS SAND

Sand filled systems should be supported to within 1-2mm from the carpet pile tip by sand. This may vary throughout the year because of the prevailing weather conditions. Surface sand will increase the wear of the carpet as players help break down the carpet fibres. Excessive sand will also make the surface slippery.

CLEANING & MAINTENANCE PROCESSES:

REJUVENATION

The most drastic form of cleaning a synthetic surface, and generally used on aged surfaces that are draining poorly. The surface will be suffering from high levels of infill compaction and contamination, and the carpet fibres may be bent over and matted. Often algal contamination will be visible in the form of a dark green slime especially in autumn and winter. Rejuvenation is usually carried out on a surface after a typical period of between 5 and 7 years to bring the

RENOVATION

For surfaces that have been maintained to a reasonable standard but have not had the infill decompacted or contamination removed from it on a regular basis. The drainage of the area would be seen to be reduced and the surface becoming harder. Contaminants would be noticed if the surface is agitated.

The Process: The surface is swept and cleaned of surface debris. The infill is fully decompacted using a MAX 1 decompaction unit. The infill material is lifted and cleaned with contaminants extracted using a MAX 2 cleaning unit.



Contaminated Infill From Rejuvenation Process

carpet back to a good standard, revitalise it, and maximise its longevity.

The Process: The surface is swept and cleaned of surface debris. If dry weather conditions exist the surface has moisture applied to it to bind infill particles and contamination particles together. The contaminated infill material is then extracted from the surface to a depth of between 10-14mm using our rejuvenation machine. The extracted infill material is removed from the synthetic grass area. Any remaining infill at the bottom of the system is then decompacted and agitated. The carpet fibres are lifted, separated and opened up. New infill is then applied to the system and evenly distributed over the surface and brushed in to the required levels.

The carpet fibres are lifted, opened up and separated. The cleaned infill is evenly redistributed back over the surface and brushed in to the required levels. Foreign debris such as broken down carpet fibres, dead moss and algal spores, ball abrasion, air born contamination etc are removed into collection units for depositing off site.

REGULAR SYNTHETIC GRASS CLEANING

To keep a surface in good condition it should be cleaned regularly. From one year after its installation the surface should have any infill decompacted and any contaminants removed from it. This will help prevent any future drainage problems, player discomfort or any algal or moss problems.

The regularity of cleaning would depend on the amount of use of the area, its location and the type of sports played.

The Process: The surface is swept and cleaned of surface debris. The infill material is decompacted to a depth of 5-7mm using a MAX 1 decompaction machine. The infill material is lifted to a depth of 5-7mm and cleaned with contaminants extracted using a MAX 2 cleaning machine. Carpet fibres are opened up and lifted. The cleaned infill is evenly distributed back into the system to the appropriate levels.

REGULAR DECOMPACTION & POWER GROOMING

Power grooming is a process that removes surface debris and decompacts the infill. The power grooming process is a more vigorous process than drag brushing and is designed to decompact the infill to a maximum depth of 10mm. Decompaction of the infill helps keep the synthetic turf draining freely enlarging the voids between the particles and thereby enlarging the space between which water can flow. The carpet pile is lifted and straightened. The process backs up cleaning processes and can be combined with either regular cleaning and/or drag brushing to form a maintenance regime package to suit the surface, its use and location, and the facility budget.

The Process: The surface is mechanically brushed and surface debris is removed. The infill material is decompacted to a maximum depth of 10mm and lifted using a Max 1 decompaction unit. The infill material is then evenly re-distributed back over the surface and brushed in to the correct levels. The carpet pile is lifted and straightened.

REGULAR DRAG BRUSHING

Regular brushing and maintenance to be combined with the cleaning process, or for surfaces with limited use.

The Process: The surface is mechanically brushed. Surface debris is removed with the top 5-7mm of infill decompacted. Carpet fibres are lifted and opened up. The infill material is re-dressed and topped up or removed as necessary. All seams and play line joints are checked.

INFILL LEVEL ADJUSTMENT

Ensuring the infill levels are correct is paramount to a well maintained astro surface. Too much infill or too little can cause problems for players and do long term damage to the artificial surface.

Infill levels are adjusted as a matter of course during our standard rejuvenation, renovation, regular cleaning and regular power grooming processes. Excess infill can be taken off, or a top-up infill supplied and applied – all in consultation with the Client.

MOSS & ALGAL TREATMENT

Moss and algal spores can establish themselves in all systems. Changes in our climate have seen an increase in the effect of moss and algae, resulting in a condition commonly known as Algal Squidge. Regular chemical treatments are essential to help prevent the establishment of moss and algal spores. SSP Ltd is able to supply and apply such treatments to help minimise the risk of contamination. Moss and algal spores are most likely to establish themselves in areas of poor sunlight, poor drainage and poor airflow.

SURFACE REPAIR

Invariably some seams and play lines become damaged or lose adhesion and require attention. Rucks may appear or penalty spots disappear. If these occur it is essential to have them repaired as they will become worse if left and may represent a hazard to players. Algal and moss killers should be applied to exterior surfaces 2-3 weeks prior to cleaning works. Contracts are available on an annual quotation basis or as a three year contract which will guarantee prices for the contract period.

