



Maintenance guidelines for Water Based surfaces

The following represent the views of Sweepfast Ltd at the current time and should only be used in conjunction with manufacturers' recommendations.

Regular maintenance should begin immediately the carpet installation is completed, most installers and manufacturers, recommend regular dragbrushing and no more, this is not adequate to keep the surface free draining and in good condition.

All organic matter should be removed from the surface as soon as possible. Playing on a surface covered in leaves /debris leads to a rapid breakdown of the organic matter which is then pushed down into the carpet, by foot pressure, likewise drag brushing when debris is present will break the debris into smaller particles which are then pushed down into the surface, eventually these particles in combination with broken fibres and atmospheric pollution will build up in the carpet and start to reduce the drainage time of the pitch, this in turn will allow algae to flourish and moss to grow around the perimeter.

To stop the above happening all organic debris should be removed from the surface regularly, this can be achieved using leaf blowers or with a greensweep machine, a full sized hockey pitch can be cleaned with a 4.8 metre green sweep gang in approximately thirty minutes and will remove most foreign bodies from the surface. The surface needs to be drag brushed in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines, once it has been cleaned. Never brush a pitch with leaf and organic residue on the surface as this can cause it to be broken into smaller particles and pushed into the carpet.

Once drainage becomes hampered by organic contamination Algae will start to grow in the carpet this is particularly difficult to treat as the pitch is rarely dries out. Dosing plants seem to have limited effect as does the application of algaecide. Algon kills algae exceptionally well in water, we are at present testing its efficiency on water based artificial turf.

It appears that deep cleaning operation will be needed to remove contamination and algal growths from the carpet on a regular basis. Sweepfasts' Hydrofast system is ideal for this purpose.

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