

synthetic turf grows here
Italgreen 



Maintenance Manual



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Proud to realize the excellence

PREFACE

Thanks for choosing Italgreen, the innovative 3rd generation artificial turf systems!

Sure to be the most innovative company in the business, Italgreen is glad to provide you with high performance artificial turf systems, entirely designed for sport applications, aimed to grant your performance satisfaction.

Our focus is delivering innovative products and know-how, based on the fact that Italgreen is not only turf manufacturer but also designer of sport pitches, according to the main federations rules.

To guarantee performance and longevity of your pitch, maintenance is crucial, this manual will give you the keys to learn how to maintain your surface, in order to keep proper performance, safety and aesthetics, during the years.

Italgreen product warranty is linked to the maintenance of your surface, that we require to scrupulously follow, according to Italgreen procedures, below recommended.

Please distribute this manual to those responsible for the day-to-day care of the turf field and check they are thoroughly familiar with its contents. You should also review the Warranty provided with the turf system for specific prohibitions and limitations contained therein.

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1. CLEANING OF THE SURFACE



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1.1 Following are the keys to preserving your turf system

- Keep it clean of all foreign objects
- Control access to the field
- Keep adjacent areas free of litter, debris, mud, dirt and oil spillage
- Provide rubbish and litter cans around the field
- Post signs prohibiting smoking and carrying food or drinks on to the field
- Repair minor damage immediately
- Observe Italgreen maintenance and cleaning procedures

After the initial installation, artificial turf systems, unlike conventional systems, require many approx. 8 weeks of use and weathering to reach optimum playing condition. This time allows the infill to settle properly to its best playing level for ideal comfort, playability and longevity of the system. This period of time varies, depending on local conditions, use, and system specifications.



1.2 Cleaning and pollution prevention

In general pollution of the field may negatively affect the performance of every single component, including artificial turf, leading to over compaction that may compromise softness of the pitch, water permeability, ball rebound and stability for players.

Rain is your best cleaner: rainfall gently cleans the turf fibers of dust, pollen and airborne pollutants in the way that is difficult to duplicate in any other fashion.

HOWEVER, THE MOST OBVIOUS CLEANING is the removal of litter deposited by users and spectators at events held on the field. Good housekeeping practices will minimize these problems:

- Keep rubbish and litter containers on site – make sure there are enough containers so as to eliminate overflow
- Route field access 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
- Paper, food, athletic tape, etc., should and can be removed most easily with a lawn sweeper immediately after any event.
- Sweeper is satisfactory for lifting paper scraps, food debris and loose trash from the surface.
- Keep surface free from airborne particulates or water sprinkler systems
- Chewing gums can be easily removed using ice cubes or biodegradable substances



1.3 Forbidden substances

Some polluted agents:

- Packaging of food, drinks, litters in general
- Foliage, plant and flowers debris
- Leakage of oil and fuel from mechanical maintenance equipment
- Chewing gum into the fibers or infill
- Acid or sugar in food could influence the quality of infill
- Weeds, algae and moss caused by lack of maintenance
- Cigarettes in general that have not been removed from the field

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Other agents:

- Acid Alcohol
- Alkali Beer
- Blood Chocolate/Cocoa
- Coffee Cola
- Dye Food Coloring
- Fruit Juice Glue
- Ice Cream Latex Paint
- Milk Mustard
- Ketchup Tea
- Urine Water Colors

2. MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

An effective maintenance program is essential to grant performance and longevity to your Italgreen® artificial turf system, in perfect compliance with our warranties. Italgreen® will provide you with a logbook that you will have to fill in, your maintenance dossier will start!



2.1 Daily visual maintenance

Your pitch will have to be visually inspected every day/week, keeping following items always in perfect shape:

- Artificial turf: general inspection of the field aimed to ensure state of the art turf joints and proper infill level
- Penalty spots: ensure that penalty spots are perfectly anchored to the green turf and properly infilled
- Corner flags: visual check always recommended by the Groundsman
- Goals and nets: visual inspection to ensure that goal posts and nets are not damaged

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2.2 Regular maintenance

Aimed to control the conditions of turf and infill material: clean your surface of leaves or twigs, using a standard blower; this will be aimed to inspect if any: plants vegetation growth is occurring on the surface.

Pile height has to be manually checked, 1.5 cm free pile has to be the maximum measurable on the key areas of the surface: penalty spot, goal areas, middle of the field.

In order to keep the infill 100% homogeneous you should use proper gardening rake or a standard rectangular brush; this will help keeping your surface natural looking.

Sweeping the field will redistribute the infill more homogeneous over the total surface.



2.3 Performance maintenance

2.3.1 Ordinary maintenance

To grant good performance of the pitch you should brush your surface using combination of groomer and brush behind your mini tractor: this action will be much more efficient than standard brushing, enabling your intervention to both simultaneously de-compact and brush the pitch, getting fibers back in upright position, preventing the softness of your infill.

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Groomer can be provided by Italgreen SPA important will be to calibrate blades inclination depending on how deep we want to penetrate our infill level and in order to avoid fibers will be damaged.

The combined grooming and brushing maintenance is suggested both for SBR infill fields and Geofill® surfaces, in order to prevent compaction of your pitch and preserve the main field performances (shock absorption, energy restitution, ball rebound...).

Some important recommendations:

- Speed has to be always limited, mainly before and after turning (make large turns)
- This action should take place every 100 playing hours
- Limit as much as possible the usage of breaks, especially during turning
- 20 hp mini tractor is recommended
- Ensure not to exceed 10 km/h tractor speed



Brushing and grooming will have to take place in absolute dry conditions: fibers should be brushed in against the direction of the pile, proceeding in concentric circles starting on the edge lines, ending at the center circle of the pitch, brushing fibers horizontally, vertically and diagonally; brushing in one sole direction will tend to cause the fibers to lean in one direction.

2.3.2 Extra ordinary maintenance

Yearly de-compaction

Infill compaction will be one of the main consequences deriving from lack of maintenance, to be prevented by using special de-compactor suggested by ITALGREEN SPA, properly designed to work out the infill from artificial turf by adjusting the working depth to a lower setting.

This machine will have to be linked to a small tractor and it's essentially made of a rotating brush able to recover part of the infill compacted under artificial turf fibers.

Following this operation it will be needed to properly measure the infill level: addition of some performance infill may be required, in an average quantity of 1 kg per sqm, once a year.

Specialist maintenance

It is recommended that every year large mnaintenance will be executed by a professional maintenance company. The key is to remove all type of debris out of the surface by cleaning the top layer with a specialist machine. Afterwards decompacting and brushing will be done. This will improve the playing properties and performance of the field.



Snow removal

The key advantage deriving from playing on artificial turf surfaces is due to the possibility to play on it in every weather conditions, without negatively affecting the quality of the game, the integrity of the surface and the regular execution of tournament calendar.

It may happen that during winter time frost and snow could influence sport practice, affecting playing performance of the pitch.

To prevent this, in case there are no heating systems installed on top of the sub-base, we recommend the usage of sea salt, once / twice a year, to be sprayed along the surface by traditional sand spreader, the product works down and mix with the infill system, melting effectively the layers of ice.

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You can even combine de-compaction with this intervention, to grant most effective maintenance action.???

How to remove the snow?

- Use a 1.40 mt snow blower, linked to medium sized tractor, using the needed precaution to be observed to avoid damaging the turf of the pitch: the used machine has not to make any contacts with artificial turf fibers
- Make down the center of the field from goal to goal is the first step
- Then pass the edge of either side, blower must be adjusted allowing snow to pass from the tractor to out of the pitch
- Remaining snow can be cleaned off with a mechanical broom



- In case of heavy snow you can use a medium sized tractor, together with a snow plough, fitted with a rubber blade to prevent to be kept in direct contact with artificial turf.

In case the snow is frozen to the pile fibers, then the field should not be used. In some cases it may be necessary to route a weighted lawn roller over the field to break up ice. The broken ice can then be swept off the field. Generally, if the sun is out and the ice or frost is not excessive, it tends to melt rapidly, especially if players use the field. Proper Shoes on the field is important

The type of sports shoes are important for playing the game in optimal condition. This refers to turning, sliding, grip and the traction on the field. Normally plastic moulded studs are used with a length of 5 --8 mm . (metal studs and flat soled footwear are forbidden) . It is recommendable to have a brush at the entrance of the field to clean the shoes from mud and other substances.

Accurate maintenance program

Action	Playing hours /week 0-20 hrs	Playing hours /week 20-40 hrs	Playing hours /week > 40 hrs
Inspection of penalty spots, center spot, goal areas, linings and infill check	Every week	Every week	Every week
Sweeping the field	Every week	Twice a week	Three times a week
Brushing of the main playing areas	Every week	Twice a week	Twice a week
Brushing total field	Every week	Every week	Twice a week
Decompacting	Once a year	Twice a year	Twice a year
Specialist maintenance	Every year	Every year	Twice a year
Snow removal	If required	If required	If required

CONCLUSIONS

With the many advances in turf design, installation techniques and materials that have come to the market, Italgreen® fields are less maintenance intensive than ever before. However, your Italgreen® field will perform, look and feel better for a longer period of time if the maintenance procedures outlined in this manual are followed closely. In particular, because Italgreen® relies in part on the Geofill infill for a portion of its system shock absorbency, It is critical to maintain a level, adequately filled fabric that is uniform in density throughout the field. Special attention then must be paid to high use areas such as goalmouths, team areas, corner and penalty kick areas, extra point areas, etc....

One should periodically inspect these areas for fill displacement and fill thickness and make suitable corrections.

This manual attempts to encounter and answer the most frequently asked questions regarding your field. However, there are always new uses, new problems and unanticipated twists or needs. Do not hesitate to contact us!

Prohibited activities

- Storage of materials such as drums, lumber, equipments, etc...
- Unnecessary vehicular traffic
- Golfing, shot putting, javelin or discus throwing, and the use of long spike track shoes, associated with cinder tracks
- Open flame, fireworks, welding, etc...
- Use of wire brushes in any form
- Heavy loads exceeding 3 psi (0,25 kg/ cm static) or 35 psi (25 N/cm² dynamic)
- Use of cleaning equipment, methods of materials not authorized
- High pressure water sprays exceeding 300 psi (20 bar)
- Vehicles with non-pneumatic tires
- Introduction of sand or fills that vary from Italgreen® specifications



Key points to remember

- Keep the field clean. Sweep the field as needed per this manual. Keep plenty of trash container on site for participants to use.
- Keep vehicular traffic off the field as much as possible.
- Post NO SMOKING signs around the turf
- Don't abuse the turf by overloading it. Use plywood and fabrics to protect the turf especially if special events are scheduled on the field
- Make minor repairs. Report major problems to Italgreen Spa right away
- Follow exactly the recommendations and procedures incorporated in this manual.

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ITALGREEN S.p.A.
Via Crusnigo, 11
24030 Villa d'Adda (BG) - ITALY
Tel +39 035 784178
Fax +39 035 784144

www.italgreen.it
info@italgreen.it

