

**MAINTENANCE  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR AN ARTIFICIAL TURF  
INSTALLATION IN  
FOOTBALL PITCHES**

**realturf.**



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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If you are reading this, it is because you have chosen artificial grass to create your football pitch. Excellent choice!

Thanks to artificial grass we **achieve substantial water savings**, we avoid the usage of pesticides and other environmentally harmful products, and we achieve a **safe environment** for our football pitch users.

**All this with minimum maintenance!**

Follow this maintenance guide to **extend the life of your artificial grass** and keep it looking as good as new for longer time.

If you have any further questions after reading this guide, please do not hesitate to consult your Realturf approved installer.



## 2. MAINTENANCE TIPS

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### 2.1. Brushing

It is advisable to brush the artificial grass area weekly with a plastic bristle brush to keep the fibers straight up.

We recommend brushing with less or higher frequency, **depending on the amount of activity** that has been carried out on the football pitch.

We recommend a professional mechanical surface brushing maintenance at least every two years.

#### **What do we achieve by brushing the surface?**

- Keep the artificial grass fibers straight.
- Redistribute the silica and rubber infill (or other alternative materials).



Tip: There is specific machinery available to perform this brushing on large surfaces.



## 2.2. Redistribution of the infill

It is very common, also in new installations, the infill would be moving around with the first usage. Don't be alarmed!

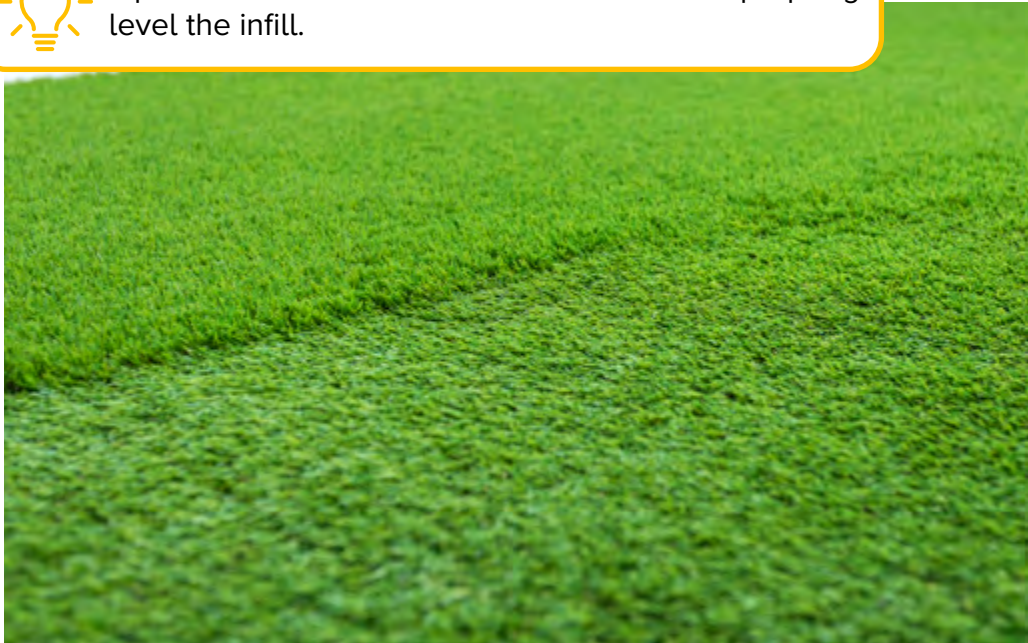
**Redistribution is part of the maintenance of your artificial grass.**

**To bring the infill back into place,** we recommend brushing the surface with sufficient pressure to shake the fibers and bring the infill back to its original position.

Do this task when the surface is completely dry for a more effective brushing.



Tip: Brush the surface in both directions to properly level the infill.



## 2.3. Infill aggregate

Infill levels must be maintained to ensure that the **biomechanical parameters** required for a football pitch are present. In addition, correct infill levels help to stabilize the fiber so that its friction surface is reduced, thus **increasing the lifetime** of the installation.

To achieve this, **attention needs to be paid to the areas of the pitch that are used the most:** penalty areas, goal areas and corners. These more vulnerable areas may require rubber replacement several times a year as part of the internal maintenance of the sports facility.

With the turf and infill completely dry, **brush the area where infill is needed** to bring the turf fibers back to their upright position.

Then **distribute the required amount of infill over the affected area**, applying pressure when brushing the turf, so that the fibers open and the distribution of the infill remains even.



## **How do I know if my infill levels are correct?**

Regardless of the height of the installed turf, always aim to leave about 10mm of the total fibers without infill. For example, in a 60mm turf, the infill will cover 50mm of the fiber and we will see the other 10mm of artificial turf free of infill.

If we notice that we have more length of turf fiber free of infill, we should schedule an extra infill in order to keep the fibers straight.



## 2.4. Refreshing

### Why do we need to cool the artificial football turf?

- **By cooling it off, we reduce the friction between player and surface.**

This means a better interaction of the player with the turf fiber, reducing friction and therefore prolonging the life of the turf.

- **By cooling it off, we reduce the temperature of the playing surface.**

Improving the temperature of the pitch improves the feel of the pitch as well and reduces the wear and tear of the fiber due to friction

We recommend cooling off your football pitch with artificial grass in the following way:

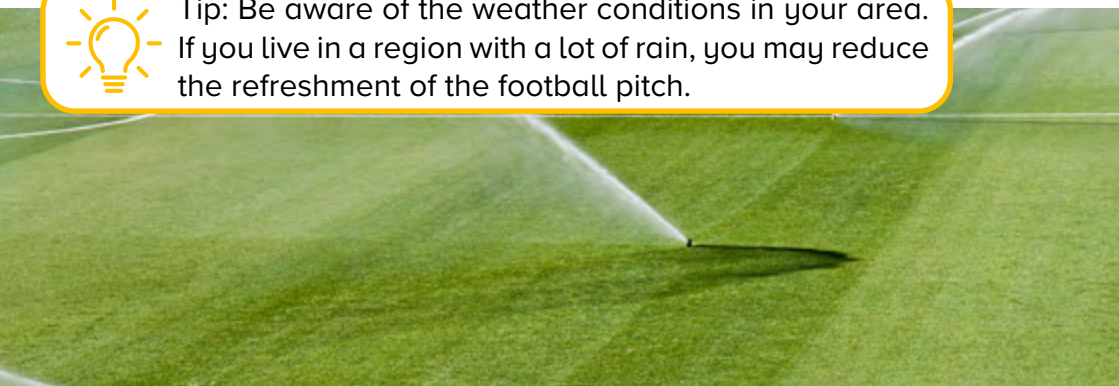
- One watering cycle **at the start** of each match.
- One watering cycle **at half-time** of each match.

In the case of a rental pitch, we recommend refreshing at the beginning of each hour of usage or whenever necessary to maintain the humidity on the playing surface.

**NOTE:** A watering cycle is a full watering of at least 1 minute per water cannon.



Tip: Be aware of the weather conditions in your area. If you live in a region with a lot of rain, you may reduce the refreshment of the football pitch.





## 2.5. Inspecting the condition of the installation

### 2.5.1. Drainage and water removal.

We recommend that you check your drainage systems such as pipes, manholes and collectors **every six months, especially before the rainy season**. In addition to the six-monthly check, carry out a **periodic inspection of the gutters** depending on the degree of obstruction. The gutters should always be clean, free of accumulations of fillings, leaves or any kind of dirt.

In many installations, and at the customer's request, the artificial grass rolls would cover the drainage gutter. By preventing dirt from entering the gutter, we avoid contamination and obstruction. This solution does not prevent the football pitch from draining, as **the artificial grass is designed with drainage holes for water to go through**. However, in the case of torrential rain or whenever it is necessary to accelerate the speed of water drainage, the client can make a longitudinal cut in the turf, parallel to the sideline and at the height of the gutter. However, **we recommend that you contact our Realturf professionals for advice**.



## 2.5.2. Surroundings of the installation

Special attention should be paid to contamination that may be caused by:

### **Users.**

Users will take the shortest way to enter the football pitch. If the path is dirty, they will bring that dirt into the artificial grass pitch. To avoid this, make sure to clean the route that the users would use to enter the football pitch.

### **Surrounding vegetation.**

Any vegetation around the field will create dirt that will end up on the playing surface.

### **Wind.**

Wind carries other types of pollution, such as pollen or seeds.

### **Animals.**

Animals, birds in particular, can also leave waste.

Clean up this waste as soon as possible to prevent it from becoming a nutrient that can help moss, algae or weeds to grow.



## 2.6. Treat moss or weeds

The installation of artificial turf on football pitches is usually carried out on an asphalt base, which in turn is applied on top of a gravel surface that has been treated with herbicides, so **it will be very rare to find moss or weeds on the playing surface.**

However, over time, **it is possible to find weeds on the perimeter of the pitch**, at the joints between the asphalt and the gutter or in the areas next to the curb.

Systemic **water-based products can be used to control moss or weeds.** In addition, when the weeds have disappeared, all those dead roots and waste of weeds, are removed from the turf surface so that they do not grow back in the future.





## 2.7. Adverse weather

**Is artificial turf resistant to snow or ice?**

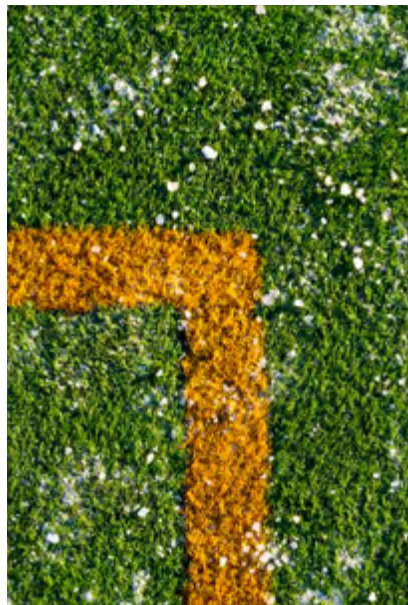
Yes, of course. **Artificial grass is resistant to all weather and temperatures.**

Artificial grass **freezes at temperatures below -5°C**. It is advisable not to use the surface in these conditions. However, if we must use the surface, **we can apply dry salt spray**. Salt stone should never be used. The application rate could be 0.15 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

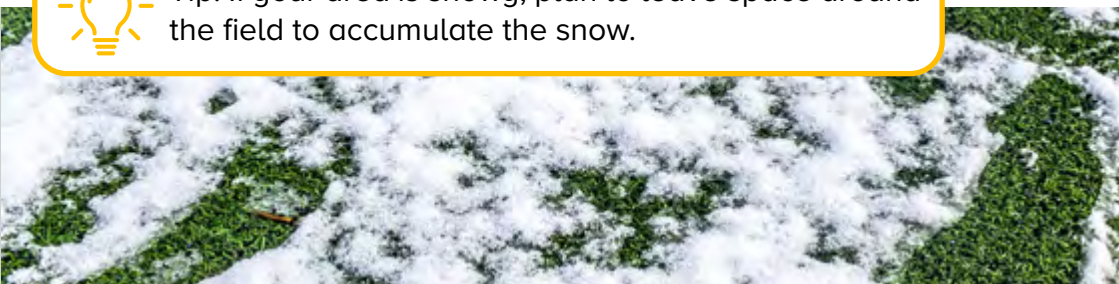
Snow can be removed using wooden shovels. **The use of metal or plastic shovels should be avoided** as they could damage the grass fibers in these conditions

**A snowplow can be used** to remove snow in larger areas. Remove the snow with the vehicle up to 5 or 10 cm. This last layer can be removed with a hand brush.

Rotary brushes and compressed air snow ploughs usually work very well for snow removal on artificial grass surfaces.



Tip: If your area is snowy, plan to leave space around the field to accumulate the snow.





## 3. CLEANING OF THE ARTIFICIAL TURF

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Maintaining the artificial turf surface is very simple, here's how to do it.

### 3.1. Surface cleaning

Use a **vacuum system** to easily remove leaves and debris caused using the pitch. Place the vacuum system at a safe distance from the surface so as not to modify the infill.

**For smaller debris that is more difficult to sweep up with a simple brush, you could use a blower or Hoover.** Once this process has been carried out, we can give it a good watering with water to remove dust or dirt.

For large play areas, we recommend cleaning with **lawn sweepers**. These machines have a hopper into which the debris is poured.



Tip: Adapt the hopper of your sweeper with a fine metal mesh with openings of 3 to 6 mm to avoid waste of the filler from the surface.



## 3.2. Stain removal

Remove any solid stains **with a plastic spatula**. Blot excess liquid with plenty of paper towels, an absorbent cloth or any material that can be swept or vacuumed afterwards

### What kind of cleaners can I use?

- **A warm solution of granulated household detergent** in about 5 liters of water or a neutral foaming detergent normally used for delicate clothing.
- **A 3% solution of ammonia** for tougher stains. Spray the surface and apply plenty of cold water afterwards.
- **Clean, dry absorbents** such as paper towels for stains that may be smudged.
- **PH neutral dry chemical cleaners.** Apply these cleaners sparingly using a damp cloth and taking care to avoid any punctured into the turf. Use these types of cleaners to remove asphalt stains, ink, bitumen, oil, lipstick, chewing gum, etc.

Consult the use of any chemicals with your Realturf team.



Tip: Act as soon as possible on any stain to make it easier to remove.

### 3.3. Decompaction

If your artificial grass installation has accumulated too much debris, special machines can be used to remove some of the infill materials, clean the debris, and reintroduce the infill into the surface.

This work is usually carried out by specialist maintenance companies or by the company in charge of the installation.

Remember that you can always consult Realturf for advice.



## 4. MINOR REPAIRS

If you detect a small problem, contact your Realturf advisors to repair quickly so that it does not lead to a major problem, specially if we have an intensively usage.

We recommend that in order to avoid having to carry out major repairs, you carry out a general inspection **twice a year**.



Tip: Perform your inspection in warm weather conditions, as adhesives hold better and consolidate quickly.





## 5. ELEMENTS YOU SHOULD AVOID

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### Fire

Although our products are **flame retardant** (they do not spread fire), their fibers will be damaged by fire. Pay special attention to any welding or electrical work that may be carried out near your football pitch.

### Solvents and acids

Due to their composition, **avoid the use of acidic products or solvents** that could damage the fibers.

### Brushes

Avoid brushing the lawn with wire brushes.

### Weight

Avoid vehicle traffic or placing objects **that weigh more than 1,000 kg** on your artificial grass.

Please note that failure to follow these guidelines may affect the product warranty.



# 6. MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

In the table below you will find the various recommended maintenance tasks for your artificial grass installation and the recommended minimum frequency with which each task should be carried out.

Activity	Frequency	
	Minimum	Recommended
Brush	Weekly	Weekly
Internal cleaning with sweepers or vacuums	Every two months	Monthly
Refresh	Before each game	Before each game + during breaks
Drainage inspection	Every six months	Every three months
Specielized mechanical sweeping	Every two years	Annual
Treatment of mosses or weeds	When required	When required
General inspection by experts	Annual	Two times per year
Repairs	When required	When required

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