

Q: How does synthetic turf impact the environment?

Q: Is synthetic turf safe?

Q: Should I be concerned about lead in my field?

Q: Is crumb rubber safe?

Q: What impact does heat have on my synthetic turf field?

Q: Are athletes playing on a synthetic turf more susceptible to MRSA/staph infections?

Q: How can I learn more about scientific studies on the health and environmental safety of synthetic turf?

PLAYER USAGE & INJURIES

Q: What impact does synthetic turf have on playing time?

Synthetic turf playing fields exponentially increase playing and practice time because they can be used daily and in all types of weather, without worry of damage. Playability is enhanced since the fields remain uniform and consistent, season after season. They can also be used within hours of installation. In addition, while turf grass managers recommend against using a natural field for more than 20 – 24 hours per week or 680 – 816 hours per year for a three-season window, synthetic turf can be utilized around 3,000 hours per year with no "rest" required.

Q: How does synthetic turf compare to natural grass on player injury rates?

Made with resilient materials for safety, synthetic turf sports fields are always ready to play on. Traction, rotation and slip resistance, surface abrasion and stability meet the rigorous requirements of the most respected sports leagues and federations.

So it's no surprise that recent studies indicate that the injury risk of playing on synthetic turf is no greater than natural grass:

Three 2010 long-term studies published by researchers from Norway and Sweden compared acute injuries on synthetic turf and natural grass. The studies examined the type, location and severity of injuries sustained by hundreds of players during thousands of hours of matches and training over a four to five year period. Many types of acute injuries to men and women soccer players, particularly knee injury, ankle sprain, muscle strains, concussions, MCL tears, and fractures were evaluated. The researchers concluded that the injury risk of playing on artificial turf is no greater than playing on natural grass;

An analysis by FIFA's Medical Assessment and Research Centre of the incidence and severity of injuries sustained on grass and synthetic turf during two FIFA U-17 World Championships. According to FIFA, "The research showed that there was very little difference in the incidence, nature and causes of injuries observed during games played on artificial turf compared with those played on grass."

A 2004 NCAA study among schools nationwide comparing injury rates between natural and synthetic turf found that the injury rate during practice was 4.4% on natural turf, and 3.5% on synthetic turf.

COST, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE & DISPOSAL**Q: What are the advantages of contracting with an STC member company?****Q: How long can a synthetic turf field be used?****Q: How does the cost of a synthetic turf field compare to a natural turf field?****Q: Are all synthetic turf products the same?****Q: Can synthetic turf hold up under heavy use?**