

Q: What are the advantages of contracting with an STC member company?

The STC recommends that you hire a team of professional contractors who are STC members and, if possible, STC Certified members, that you select with the help of a landscape architect and engineer or independent consultant. Visit the [Buyers' Guide](#) and [Member Directory](#) to help with your search.

Q: How long can a synthetic turf field be used?

Synthetic turf sports fields are typically warranted for eight years, but their life expectancy will depend to a great extent on the amount and type of usage and the maintenance it receives. When it comes to landscape applications, synthetic turf can last much longer than fields.

Q: How does the cost of a synthetic turf field compare to a natural turf field?

A synthetic turf field usually has a higher upfront cost, but the field often pays for itself over 3-4 years, proving to be a highly cost-effective investment. Synthetic turf fields are typically utilized for about 3,000 hours of play per year, with no "rest" required, the equivalent of three to four well-maintained natural turf fields. In addition, synthetic turf maintenance costs are two to three times less than natural turf, since no mowing, irrigation or chemicals are needed. Because of its consistent availability, a synthetic turf field is also a reliable source of rental revenue for schools and communities.

According to Cory Jenner, a landscape architecture professional in Syracuse, N.Y., the cost of installing and maintaining a synthetic turf sports field over a 20-year period (including one replacement field) is over three times less expensive per event than the cost of a grass field over the same period of time. This is because many more events can be held on a synthetic turf sports field. "Financially speaking, artificial turf is more cost-effective over time," Jenner said. This cost per event advantage is validated by other authorities and field owners.

Q: Are all synthetic turf products the same?

No, there are a variety of different types of synthetic turf products and systems. Visit the [Buyers' Guide & Member Directory](#) to browse synthetic turf manufacturers and system builders.

Q: Can synthetic turf hold up under heavy use?

Yes, one of the important advantages of synthetic turf is its ability to hold up under very heavy use. While natural turf shouldn't be played on during or immediately after a rain storm, after the

application of pesticides and fertilizers, or during the months when grass doesn't grow, synthetic turf is always ready for play. Regular maintenance is important to enable synthetic turf to withstand the heavy use that it is often subjected to.

Q: Does synthetic turf fade?

Synthetic turf is U.V. stabilized to provide colorfastness, and the warranty typically includes a guarantee against fading for a certain number of years. Be aware of the relative impact that ultra violet rays can have on the life of your field – the greater the intensity of the sunlight, the shorter the lifespan of the fiber. Ask the turf vendor for this information. A field in Texas will not last as long as the same field in Maine.

Q: Who should I consult for the installation of a synthetic turf sports field?

The STC recommends that you hire a team of professional contractors that you select with the help of a landscape architect and engineer or independent consultant. Visit the [Buyers' Guide and Member Directory](#) to help with your search.

Q: Is maintenance of synthetic turf required?

While much less time and money is required to maintain a synthetic turf sports field than a natural grass field, synthetic turf needs to be maintained to maximize playability and the life of the product. The STC's [Guidelines for Maintenance of Infilled Synthetic Turf Sports Fields](#) (available in English and Spanish) provides essential guidance on proper maintenance techniques and frequency. The [Buyers' Guide and Member Directory](#) will also guide you to specific service providers.

Q: How will I know when my multi-purpose synthetic turf sports field is approaching the end of its useful life?

Please review the STC's [Guidelines for Synthetic Turf Performance](#).

Q: What options are there for disposing of synthetic turf once it has reached the end of its useful life other than putting it in a landfill?

In January 2013, the STC published a review of the various options that exist for the [Removal, Recovery, Reuse & Recycling of Synthetic Turf and Its System Components](#).

Q: Where do I turn for technical guidance?

The STC's member companies are the best source of technical guidance. Organizations are listed according to the product or service they provide in the [Buyers' Guide and Member Directory](#). The [STC Resource Center](#) provides technical guidelines, suggestions for funding a field, marketing brochures and lots more information – all available for download without charge. Our website also offers [latest research](#), [position statements](#) and [white papers](#).

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact us at (678) 385-6720 or office@syntheticturfCouncil.org.

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9/26/2017 » 9/28/2017

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