



Super Tip

Taking An Extra Step Can Save You Time!

Blowing Off Clippings Before Washing Saves Water, Wash Time

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There seems to be a growing trend among golf course managers in Southwest Florida. They are building and maintaining organized state-of-the-art turf maintenance facilities.

This affords further proof that the "old barn" is a dying object in today's more advanced world of golf course management.

When these new facilities are being constructed, another trend is also surfacing, that is the trend of golf course superintendents becoming even more exceptional stewards of the environment. One area that superintendents are becoming more competent in this regard is water conservation.

Matt Taylor is the golf course superintendent at the new Tom Fazio-designed Cypress Golf Course in northeast Naples. The Cypress Course is one of two 18-hole tracks that together will be known as Bonita Bay East.

Matt is also the proud manager of the newest modern turf maintenance facility in the Naples area that was built to house the maintenance operations for his two golf courses.

One of the features Matt has installed at his facility is a blow-off station at the entrance to his equipment wash-down area. Matt's intention of the blow-off station is to have his equipment operators use the compressed air to blow turf-

grass clippings from the equipment prior to washing the machine with water.

Matt explained, "Not only do we conserve water but we also save valuable time. The clippings are certainly much easier and quicker to remove from the machine when they are dry."

When asked if his employees have expressed any objections to the added step Matt responded, "Absolutely not. In fact they enjoy using the compressed air, they are able to perform the same necessary job as before and they even stay drier."

"Even though the blow-off station adds another step to the cleaning process, it decreases the labor needed to keep the equipment-wash-down area clean."

Matt was referring to the fact that since the clippings are blown on a pad prior to entering the wash-down area, there is a decreased need to shovel away mounds of wet, stinky clippings from the wash-down area.

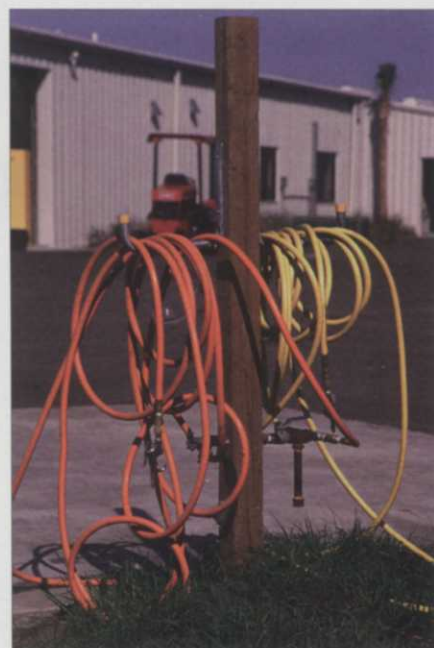
According to Matt, "That certainly helps improve employee morale!"

Blow-off stations can be fabricated in a variety of shapes and styles. They can be as simple as a bundle of hose plumbed into a compressed air source, or they can be made a little more sophisticated by utilizing retractable hose reels.

Regardless of the size or shape of the blow-off station, there are a few safety features that all of the systems should definitely incorporate.

Only an OSHA-approved nozzle should be used on the hose and, when using the system, all the operators should wear safety glasses. It would also be a good idea to post a warning sign declaring this requirement.

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*Basic blow off station at the new Tom Fazio designed Cypress Golf Course in Naples.
Photo by Darren Davis.*



*A slightly more advanced blow-off station utilizing a retractable hose reel, a warning sign, and a safety glasses holder. The shovel mounted behind the support pole is used to clean up any build up of clippings in the area.
Photo by Darren Davis.*