

# Recycling Wash Pads are Effective

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A common term used in the world of social media, Facebook in particular, where one randomly browses through their friends' profiles in hopes of a glimpse of new photos and personal information, is called 'creeping'. For many, I'm sure this is a relatively new term but to a generation that has used Facebook since its conception, 'creeping' is thrown around quite frequently.

'Creeping' relates to our industry in a variety of ways with Turfnet being the most common example. We look for topics we can relate to by browsing through past and present posts. In times of trial or need for answers, our anticipation of someone answering our question can seem to consume our time. However, while waiting for replies, we find ourselves veering off topic to view user profiles, reading about their interests, family, pets and hobbies.

**While on Turfnet I find myself focusing on inventions,** tools and tricks of my fellow peers and it never ceases to amaze me that we are such a resourceful and intelligent group of professionals. And for Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights, Bob McKinney, CGCS, is a prime example.

In a recent meeting Mr. McKinney told me about his simple but extremely effective equipment wash pad. Within two years of receiving a new Turf Management facility, Bob realized that his unsightly and sewage smelling site didn't match up with his new building so he developed a concept to improve the area.

The pictures on the right show McKinney's simple wash pad system. He started by sinking a 200 gallon basin into his desired location making sure the area around had sufficient slope. To catch the clippings, a custom made top was put on the basin which would hold a standard screen used for melting products into a sprayer. The rinsate is then discharged on to the turf.

**The next step was to try and find a way to re-use the water in the basin.** He installed a Submersible Grinder 2 hp pump capable of pushing 41 GPM and ran 2" PVC to a previously un-irrigated area 30 yards away. The end of the line houses a quick coupler and impact head that



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turns on by way of the float on the pump.

Mendakota Country Club has been using this system since it was installed in 2001 and is still using the same pump. They try to minimize the amount of sand entering the pump by rinsing in a turf area first and the only maintenance needed a few years ago was to reverse the

impeller.

Mr. McKinney's wash system is a great example of the many inventions that make our jobs easier and more effective. I'd like to thank him for sharing his idea and taking the time to tell me about it.