



Left: Invesco Field Mile High Stadium in Denver, Colorado. Right: Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas.

Field Marking Tips and Tricks from Athletic Surfaces Canada

Field Maintenance

Before you think about striping and painting your field, you first have to get the grass and field into shape. As you all are well aware, bright colors and straight lines will only help so much if your field is hard, brown and spotty. Follow proper maintenance procedures.

Striping Techniques

A green field to play on means nothing if the out-of-bounds lines aren't crisp and straight, the hash marks aren't accurate, or the mascot can't be seen. Striping and painting your field will take time and patience but will be worth it in the end.

- Always string your lines. Accuracy is important because games are officiated according to the lines you stripe. Stringing your lines helps insure accurate markage.
- Paint the sidelines on football fields first so that you know when to start and stop when lining the rest of the field.
- When striping lines the first time, the initial application should be lighter to establish a good base. A second application with high quality paint will make your lines brilliant.

- Apply a base coat of white paint before applying a color. This way you use less colored paint and get better, brighter coloring and your school name or logo will pop off the field.

- Use only the highest quality field marking paint to get the brightest lines and the easiest application.

Game Fields vs. Practice Fields

On game fields, mix your paint 2 to 1 or 3 to 1. On practice fields, mix your paint 3 to 1 or 4 to 1. One quality paint, less storage.

Don't Use Too Much Paint!

Don't go by the rule "If a little looks good, a whole lot will look great!" Too much paint in a confined area of the field (even water-based) can be harmful to the turf.

Don't Throw Out the Leftovers

At the end of marking, don't throw away any unused paint. Pour it back into a bucket and seal it and it will be good the next time you need it.

Give Your Field a Drink

In dry weather, try not to paint right after cutting the grass without giving the grass

a "drink" of water. This will prevent the grass from sucking up the moisture from the paint and causing a "burning" effect.

Do the Dew!

To remove dew off a field, simply connect two 100 foot water hoses together and, with one person on each end of the hose, start in the end zone and drag the hose the length of the field several times.

Make Your Logo Bright

When painting logos, paint a white base first, and allow drying. Then paint your colors on top, for the brightest and sharpest colors.

Rainy Days and Aerosols

Aerosols work better in damp conditions than bulk paint. It's always a good idea to keep a few cases of aerosol in stock in case of rainy weather.

Shake, Shake, Shake

When shaking the cans, first turn can upside down and pat against the palm of your hand while rotating the can. The marble will break loose much quicker by doing this. Then turn the can right side up and shake for a minute. How much aerosol does it take to stripe a football field? It

takes approximately 1 case of aerosol (12 cans) to stripe a regulation high school football field. That's all the lines, coach's boxes and the hash stripes. It takes about 1 case to paint the numbers and tick marks on the field.

Please remember: Your gait walk determines how far each can goes. The paint is coming out at the same speed whether you are standing still, walking or running with the can. Each can is designed to spray a 4" wide line between 350 feet and 450 feet.

Overcoming the Big Chill

When painting in cold conditions, fill a 5-gallon pail with hot water. Put your aerosol paint cans in it. This will heat the cans up and make it easier to get paint to mix and spray. ♦

Athletic Surfaces Canada services everyone from community clubs, schools, municipalities, cities and pro sports. Our clients are what make Athletic Surfaces Canada. We carry the three major paint manufacturers available in Canada which offer a choice in bulk paint types and qualities as well as the ever popular easy to use and economical aerosol field paint. Athletic Surfaces Canada is pleased to say that we are this year's Eastern Conference Finals and Grey Cup field paint supplier. ASC can be reached at #5-305 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6X7, Toll Free: 1-966-272-1242, 905-841-3120, email: marc@athleticsurfacescanada.ca.

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OTS 2005: Back to Our Roots

Summary of Sports Turf Related Sessions...

T1 8:30-9:00 Sports Turf for Entertainment

Chris Hope, Manderley Sod

The Championship World Soccer Series visited the Toronto Skydome for two high level matches between Celtics vs. A.S. Roma and Liverpool vs. FC Porto in July of 2004. Learn about the process that was required to provide a top-level natural grass-playing surface to the Skydome for the first time. A synopsis of the logistical challenges of having a temporary field installed on the Skydome floor in less than 16 hours will also be discussed.

T2 9:00-9:30 Myths and Truths about Infield Specification

Ron Martin, Mar-Co Clay Products

The correlation between particle sizing, particle substance, sub-surface materials, drainage and amendments to consider when choosing your infield 'dirt' specification will be explored.

T3 9:30-10:00 Community Park and Sports Facility Design

Jim Melvin, PMA Landscape Architects

Jim will review the planning and design process involved in the creation of a community sports park. This seminar will include a review of the pre-planning programming, park design, budgeting and maintenance regimes.

T4 10:30-11:00 Sports Field Construction Project: Utilizing your Contractor

Blaire Gateman, Gateman Milloy

The contractor is an important resource with respect to field construction and tapping into his/her knowledge is invaluable. Learn how to access this experience and information and explore the intermix between owner, designer, consultant and contractor.

T5 11:00-11:30 The Challenges in Maintaining Poorly Constructed Fields

Cam Beneteau, Ridley College

A history and background of Ridley College and its sports fields will be discussed, highlighting the work done to correct specific problems and cultural practices set into place to eliminate and/or alleviate these problems.

T6 11:30-12:00 A System of Sports Field Classification and Construction Guidelines

Gord Dol and David Smith, Sports Turf Association

The development of a classification system and subsequent construction guidelines for sports fields as they relate to community needs will be discussed.