

SPORTS TURF MANAGER

... for safe, natural sports turf

WINTER 2006 • VOL. 19, NO. 4

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Create a Skating Winter Wonderland

TIPS FOR INSTALLING & MAINTAINING A SAFE OUTDOOR ICE SURFACE

During winter in Canada it's not uncommon to see a great sheet of ice in every second backyard, and almost every community has at least one outdoor rink. Here are some tips for installing and maintaining a safe, fun outdoor ice surface.

Site Selection

Obviously, your chosen site should be on ground that's as level as possible. You can level it off as you build your rink, but the more level to start with, the better. The surface you're building on should promote good drainage in the spring and not be a dark color, such as asphalt, because dark colors absorb heat.

Water Supply

Make sure there is an adequate water supply close at hand. If you don't have a controlled water supply, the next best al-

ternative is a stream or pond from which you can pump water.

Lighting

To maximize usability, lighting is a must. It's been my experience that at least 80% of outdoor rink use is after school hours, and with winter days being so short, you'll need lighting.

Surface Area

Make sure that you have enough room for your ice surface. The area should be 180-200 feet long and at least 80-85 feet wide. You can use the area for other activities in the off-season.

Ancillary Facilities

You will need access to facilities for your patrons. If it's not in the budget the first year, renting portable restrooms might suffice temporarily. → page 8

