

# SYNTHETIC TURF VS. NATURAL GRASS

## TODAY'S SYNTHETIC TURF

is designed to simulate the experience of practicing and playing on the best natural grass.

Natural grass simply cannot remain lush and resilient if used more than three to four days a week, in snow or drought, or during months when grass doesn't grow. This, coupled with an escalating need for durable fields that accommodate multiple teams and activities, the high cost of maintaining a grass sports field or landscape, and the need to conserve water, have prompted a rising number of schools, parks and municipalities to turn to synthetic turf to meet their needs.



	FIFA Quality Turf	Natural Grass
<b>Playing Time</b>	3,000 hours play per year, no rest required	680 – 816 hours per year, rest required between heavy play
<b>Maintenance Required</b>	Clearing debris, brushing the surface, topping infill levels	Mowing, watering, fertilizing, pesticides, aeration
<b>Revenue Generation</b>	Can be used 24/7/365 for sports, community events or other revenue generating activities	Less opportunities for events due to rest time needed between play time or inclement weather
<b>Environment</b>	Water savings, less pollution, no pesticides	Maintaining the natural environment, foliage and soil conditions
<b>ROI</b>	Payback is 3 to 4 years, 3x less expensive than natural grass over a 20 year period	Less upfront cost, slower ROI due to higher maintenance costs and fewer revenue generating events
<b>Community Use</b>	Enhanced accessibility due to increased playtime and all weather surface	Use can be limited due to necessary rest time
<b>Land Utilization</b>	Can achieve more use with same amount of space	Use can be limited due to necessary rest time
<b>Sport Performance</b>	Same as natural grass	Better than low quality artificial turf
<b>Safety</b>	Same as natural grass	Better than low quality artificial turf

\*Source: Synthetic Turf Council

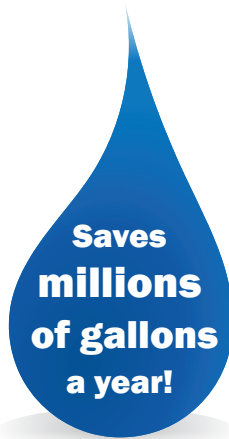


## ENVIRONMENT

Synthetic turf has a measurable, positive impact on the environment.

### Water Savings

- A typical natural grass sports field requires between **500,000 and 1 million gallons** of water per year.
- Every square meter of natural grass replaced with synthetic **saves 2,200 gallons** per year.
- Synthetic turf conserves **4 to 8 billion gallons of water annually**.



### Reduced Pesticide Use

- Synthetic turf eliminates the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers, a principal cause of water pollution, which can lead to Algal Bloom, depleted oxygen and damage to wildlife.

### Less Pollution

- Helps reduce noxious emissions from maintenance equipment and mowers.
- A push mower emits as much pollution in **one hour as 11 cars**. A riding mower emits as much as **34 cars**.



## SAFETY & PERFORMANCE

Player well-being is at the forefront of product development.

- Hundreds of studies have shown that the risk of injury is no different on high quality synthetic turf than natural grass. FIFA Quality Turf, in particular, has been extensively benchmarked and tested against natural grass for player safety and performance measures.



## VERSATILE

Maximize land use with the same surface space.

- Synthetic turf promotes greater utilization of land than natural grass, as you can achieve more with the same surface space. This is especially important for highly urbanized environments with limited access to recreational areas.



## ALL WEATHER USE

Ideal for inclement weather climates.

- Natural turf is generally in poor condition after long winter months or very hot climates, requiring extensive maintenance. Hot climates experiencing drought face significant water shortages. Synthetic turf playing fields remain uniform and consistent, season after season, and can be used within hours of installation—without worry of damage.



## RESILIENT

Far more durable than natural grass.

- Natural grass should not be used more than 20–24 hours per week or 680–816 hours per year.
- Synthetic turf can be utilized around 3,000 hours per year with no “rest” required.



## RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Synthetic turf has been proven to be a highly cost-effective investment.

- Synthetic turf field **pays for itself over 3-4 years**.
- The cost of installing and maintaining a synthetic turf field over a 20-year period (including one replacement field) is over **3x less expensive per event** than the cost of a grass field.