



## Correct your Infield Dirt Mix

**Make your infield consistent throughout the entire game. A proper mix of materials helps to prevent rain outs and help maintain the proper moisture level on your field.**

If you have determined that your infield dirt mix is of a poor consistency and not performing up to your standards you can take corrective measures by adding infield mix to get your field up to optimum playing conditions.

Many baseball fields benefit from extra dirt every year. Most often it tends to blow away or eventually get washed away. Adding the correct dirt mix provides a level playing surface.

1. Determine how much material you will need for your field and order the infield mix.
2. Have the material dumped on the dirt area if possible. Lightly water your existing infield mix.
3. Spread out the new mix with a tractor or field rakes paying special attention to low spots that you typically find at 1B and home plate. 2B is usually a little high on most fields, but if it needs more material, put it on.
4. Water the dirt lightly to hold down the dust.
5. Drag with your normal infield drag.
6. Steam roll the material if you are adding more than 2" of material to help speed up the settling.
7. Water the dirt just as you would before a game.
8. Drag again.

## Tips

1. If you need to add a lot of new material that did not exist in the current field, then you should till it in with a tractor, tiller, drag it, and roll it. For example, if your field is very low on clay content you may want to add 12-13 tons of material. Till the field down 3-4", add the new material, till the material into the existing field, drag it, and steam roll it.

2. Sand helps with drainage and helps if bounces are too hard and high. Be very careful not to add too much.
3. Clay helps with a firm footing and if the dirt area is too loose and bounces die.
4. A combination of clay and silt usually gets the right combination for drainage, good footing, and the right bounces.
5. Fines (also known as DG or decomposed granite) are very fine crushed granite rock fragments. It may look good, but it does not really help with footing, drainage, or bounces. It is cheap so many parks use this material. For competitive play you do not want just DG on the field. The correct dirt mix needs to include clay. [MSU Fielder's Choice Infield Mix](#) consists of crushed-screened 2mm minus decomposed granite. This material has a combined silt and clay content of 18-25%. This material is also blended with a 100% organic binder to help control moisture, dust and maintenance.

## Mistakes

Some fields are made up completely of DG, fines, or crushed brick. Walk on a field like this after a game on a warm day and it is like wading through dust. Do not put this on the field. The correct mix is made of DG, clay, silt, and sand.