



Maintaining Your Infield Dirt

Providing necessary baseball field dirt maintenance is the cornerstone to a safe and quality baseball experience.

Do you want to allow your player's to achieve optimum performance at their sport? Reduce compaction, bad hops, and puddles after storms.

Proper infield dirt care is all about the moisture content and management. Nobody wants to play on a field as hard as concrete or in a dust bowl. These are awful playing conditions. Just a few simple steps and precautions can ensure that you will have an optimal playing surface.

1. Remove all the bases and any junk from the field like sticks, rocks, grass clippings, etc...
2. Lightly water the infield skin or dirt area in preparation for dragging.
3. Slowly use a heavy duty nail drag and drag slowly. (We do have quality nail drags for sale)
4. Slowly drag the field with a metal drag. This helps to loosen the surface level and low spots. Keep the drag at least 6" from the grass edges to prevent lip build up.

Tips

1. Frequently change the direction of dragging to help prevent buildup in the same areas. The spiral dragging method is usually the best for not causing buildups.
2. Along the grass edge use a field rake to level it. If some dirt does spray onto the grass area, use a plastic fan rake to get it out.
3. Plastic fan rakes work better than metal. Less damage to grass roots when getting the dirt back on the infield skin.
4. Do not just drag before each practice or game. Drag afterwards and you will have a better field. If you don't, the foot marks harden from the overnight moisture and you will have to work harder the next time.
5. Use a steam roller on the infield dirt after adding and mixing in additional field materials or after using a nail drag to fill in large indentations. The roller helps the added material

settle so players are not swimming in dirt. Rolling also helps provide good footing and cuts down on bad hops.

Mistakes to avoid

1. When dragging the field, always enter and exit at the same place. It is very common for a field to have a bump or high spot at 3B or 1B where the drag always stops, leaving a build-up of dirt.
2. The biggest mistake you can do is not drag the field prior to or after games and practices. Your field will deteriorate in a hurry and become unplayable.
3. If you pull a drag behind a tractor, do not drive too fast! The dirt will not smooth and will clump up at the turns.
4. Never drag the dirt off the infield skin and onto the grass area. This will cause a lip build-up and nobody wants that.