



Maintaining your Baseball Field Mound

Maintain the pitcher's area properly to reduce injury

The pitcher's area gets a ton of use during games and practices.

It is crucial to maintain the pitcher area properly to reduce the risk of injury. So, fix it! Maintain it!

1. Sweep or rake the loose material from the landing area and top of the mound. This allows the hard ground to be exposed. The landing area is the place where the pitcher lands with his lead foot.
2. Lightly moisten the exposed hard ground and the loose material to ensure the dirt will bind when packed back in the holes. Let it set and absorb for a few minutes.
3. Rake the loose, but moistened, material back into the holes.
4. Tamp the loose dirt into the ground. Use a tamp or the smooth back of a field rake.
5. Rake down the newly repaired areas as well as the rest of the mound.
6. Water the entire pitchers area
7. Once the pitcher's mound is completely prepared for the game, you can cover it with a tarp to maintain a proper moisture level.

Tips

1. In many cases, clay bricks are used to establish a firm throwing area. These moist clay bricks are very acceptable material because they have not been fired like your typical construction brick.
2. Bags of mound clay also will work. Remove about 3" of dirt in the posting and landing area of the mound. Moisten the ground. Add the mound clay. Let it sit for a few minutes. Rake it around. Repeat moistening, adding material, and raking it in until the level is almost back to normal. Cover with the dirt that was removed and tamp it in.

3. Calcined clay makes a great top dressing for the mound. This helps prevent slipping in wet weather and gives the mound a nice, professional, finishing touch
4. Make sure your pitcher's rubber is level, in the proper position, and is really the right distance from home plate and the proper height. Measure the distance from the back point of the plate to the front of the pitching rubber. The proper little league distance is 46 feet. The proper high school and college distance is 60 feet 6 inches.
5. Take care of your bullpens also, they often go ignored.

Mistakes to avoid

1. Ignoring ground care. The biggest mistake. It seems to be common when a field is shared by many teams and many leagues.
2. Not providing tools and access to take care of the mound.
3. Just filling in the landing holes with dry dirt. That does not help!
4. Not having a table top to your mound. A mound is not supposed to look like a bump or a hill on the field. It needs a large flat area at the tip and then gradually sloping towards the grass. Otherwise the thing is actually dangerous for a pitcher. For example, a high school size mound should have a top that is 3 feet by 5 feet and level
5. Mound height is wrong. Next to the wrong distance from home plate to second base, this is the most common mistake. Many mounds are not the right height. If you have the correct height the players will have a better baseball experience and one that is more consistent.