



# THINK GREEN

## PREVENT REUSE RECYCLE RECOVER



### INTRODUCTION

ESTC is the trade association for the synthetic turf industry in the EMEA region. Its objective and purpose is to serve, promote, develop, grow and advocate for the synthetic turf industry. We work in both the sports and landscaping sectors.

ESTC fulfils its role by means of close collaboration with all parties involved; members, end-users, sports governing bodies and legislators.

ESTC is focused on the regions of Europe, Middle East and Africa. Via our partnership with the Synthetic Turf Council (STC) in North America, ESTC also helps its members achieve a global reach. On a local level, ESTC works closely with national industry associations to accomplish our goals and objectives.

The foremost organisation for information gathering and knowledge sharing.

Promoting members and the industry, to governing bodies, national federations and end-clients.



Access to the most prominent organisations and individuals in the synthetic turf industry in Europe.

Dialogue with key decision makers and influencers, with a direct involvement in the synthetic turf industry.

### DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY OF WASTE

#### END OF LIFE (EOL)

The point in time where the product is no longer able to fulfil the function for which it was designed

#### WASTE

Any substance or object which the owner discards or is required to discard. In terms of a synthetic turf sports surface, this is normally when the surface or components reach the end of their life and they are lifted to enable replacement

#### SYNTHETIC TURF SPORTS SURFACE

Sports surface comprised of a carpet of tufted, knitted or woven construction. The synthetic turf carpet comprises a number of components including pile yarns (typically made from polyethylene, polypropylene or nylon), primary backing (a textile cloth through which the pile yarns are looped), secondary backing (a coating applied to the base of the primary backing to anchor the pile yarns in place)

#### STABILISING INFILL

A granulate material (normally sand) used to provide weight and stability to the synthetic turf surface

#### PERFORMANCE INFILL

A granulate material used in surfaces to help provide the playing characteristics required from the surface

#### SHOCKPAD

Prefabricated rolls or tiles or in-situ laid underlays that are designed to contribute to the required sports performance characteristics

#### REUSE

A process whereby a product is turned into a new version of the same product. This process is also known as primary or closed loop recycling

#### RECYCLING

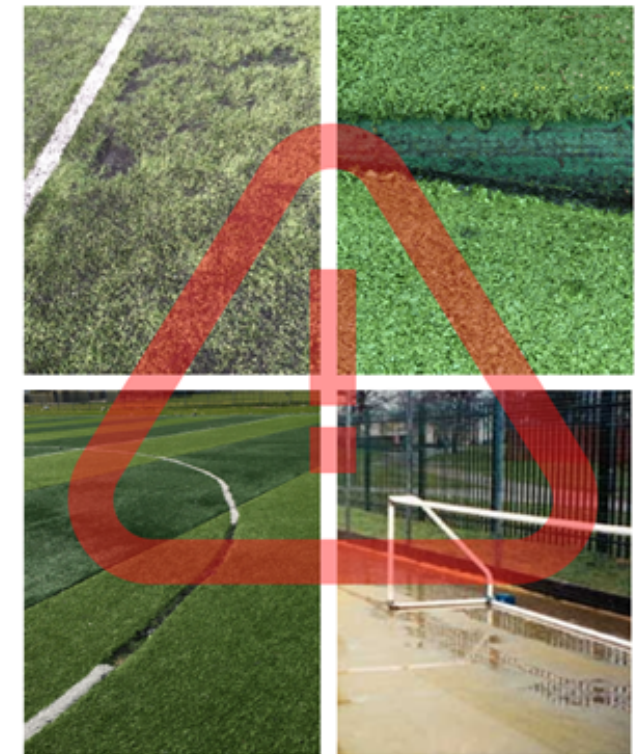
The process of converting end of life (or waste) materials into new materials and products

#### REPURPOSING

Using the end of life product for a new or secondary purpose

### WHEN IS END OF LIFE

Deciding when your synthetic sports surface needs to be replaced is often a difficult decision for field owners. Maximising the use of the field and extending its service life as far as possible ensures the facility is economically and environmentally sustainable. Synthetic turf technology continues to improve, but the fields needing replacement today are likely to be between eight and twelve years old.



Factors that will determine when a surface needs replacing include:

- An inability to satisfy the required sporting and player safety criteria
- Repeated and significant failures of carpet and line joints
- Repeated tearing of the synthetic turf carpet
- Significant pile wear or tuft loss
- A significant reduction in surface drainage



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### WASTE HIERARCHY

Increasingly, disposal of waste is covered by legislation and the handling and processing of waste is tightly regulated. Strict rules and protocols need to be complied with and there are often severe penalties for those that do not comply. As a general rule, the owner of an EOL synthetic turf surface has the sole responsibility to transfer ownership of the waste materials to a certified waste disposal company, and to then ensure that the field is properly disposed of.

The Waste Hierarchy aims to ensure that the management of waste is undertaken in as responsible and sustainable a way as possible. The waste hierarchy illustrates the various options available and ranks them according to what has the best outcomes for the environment.



Within the European Union and United Kingdom, the Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC) applies. This sets out the basic concepts and definitions related to waste management, such as definitions of waste, recycling, recovery, etc. It explains when a product becomes waste, when waste can cease being classified as waste and becomes a secondary raw material, and how to distinguish between waste and by-products.

When removing a synthetic turf sports surface, you have two principal choices. Do you lift and move the EOL sports surface as one entity with any infill retained within the turf carpet, or do you separate the carpet and infill materials on site to ease handling and allow processing by different companies operating at different locations?

### SELECTING A SUPPLIER

As environmental awareness grows, this is creating commercial opportunities, and an increasing number of companies are entering the market offering waste handling and processing services. Not all companies work to the same professional standards, therefore in addition to complying with all legal requirements, it is important that checks are made to verify that the environmental credentials and benefits being offered are actually deliverable. It is recommended that you ensure the waste handling process being offered by a company has been independently verified under a recognised environmental certification programme. ESTC recognises the following standards as the preferred certification programs:

- EN ISO 14034 Environmental Management/Technology Verification
- EN 15343 Plastics & Recycled plastics
- EN ISO 14001: Environmental Management Systems
- EN ISO 9001: Quality Management System

Others are based on a one-off audit of a process to verify its environmental credentials. Examples include:

European Union's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) pilot programme



Plastics Recyclers Europe EuCertPlast programme, or equivalent



### ESTC GUIDE PROCESSING END OF LIFE SYNTHETIC TURF SPORTS SURFACES

DOWNLOAD THE ESTC EOL GUIDE 2021

