

Selecting Infield Conditioners

Lack of funds are all too common for coaches and groundskeepers and result in decisions to purchase brick dust/vitrified clay, limestone screenings, shale, sand or other products to try and keep a field from becoming unplayable during rain. These products do not condition a field like TURFACE. It's best to renovate with TURFACE or incorporate small amounts of TURFACE over time to condition the field.



CALCINED CLAY:

TURFACE MVP, *Pro League* and Quick Dry are calcined clay products manufactured specifically to condition sports fields to improve drainage, reduce compaction and absorb excess water. However, tremendous variation exists between TURFACE and other calcined clay products. Many materials are called calcined clay, and many claim to be “just like” TURFACE. However, degradation of calcined clays range from 3.5% over 20 years with TURFACE to calcined clays that degrade or melt back down to clay in a few days. TURFACE is the #1 Choice of Groundskeepers because of its unique raw clay mineral and the manufacturing process, which produces a very stable, uniform particle with consistent color and little dust. TURFACE has been supplying products to the sports field industry for 40 years.

DIATOMACEOUS EARTH:

DE is primarily made of prehistoric diatoms (single celled algae). DE is more brittle and dusty than TURFACE. Claims that the lighter bulk density of DE will allow you to use less product to condition a field as well as TURFACE is simply not accurate – DE will not condition an infield like TURFACE.

BRICK DUST/VITRIFIED CLAY/CRUSHED AGGREGATES:

There are significant differences between TURFACE Sports Field Conditioners and crushed aggregates that are products of non sports field related industries including the concrete and brick industries. Typically, these crushed aggregates are used as a red infield colorant or as a substitute for a soil conditioner to prevent rain outs. Unfortunately, they do not have the same absorption, drainage and stability characteristics as TURFACE. These materials may appear inexpensive but they typically weigh twice as much as TURFACE thus requiring twice the tons to cover the same area. Aggregate infields should be amended with TURFACE MVP or *Pro League* to help them from becoming compacted and to improve their moisture absorption.