

## II CLEANING

The most obvious cleaning procedure is the removal of litter deposited by users and spectators at events held on the field. Good housekeeping practices will minimize these problems:

### **LITTER REMOVAL**

Paper, peanut shells, sunflower seeds, athletic tape, paper, etc., should and can be removed most easily with a lawn sweeper or a motorized vacuum sweeper immediately after any event.

A sweeper such as the Estate Sweeper or similar machine is satisfactory for lifting paper scraps, food debris and loose trash from the surface.

### **OIL/GAS SPILLAGE, ETC.**

Care should be taken to prevent lubricating oil, grease, transmission fluids, etc., from dripping or spilling on your turf surface during sweepings. Such spills can discolor the turf. Proper maintenance procedures should be observed in this regard. Battery acid and other fluids should not be allowed on the turf. **Never change or add fluids to maintenance equipment while on the turf surface.**

### **STAIN REMOVAL**

Polyolefin fibers are among the most stain resistant fibers known to man because most stains are moisture borne and polyolefin, a "hydrophobic" yarn, tends not to absorb moisture. Hence, most "stains" on AstroPlay<sup>®</sup> fields are not true "stains" but rather residues of foreign matter that must be promptly and thoroughly removed.

Most "stains" on polyolefin fields can be removed with water or soap and water. The first rule is promptness. It is much easier to clean up a fresh spill before it has time to dry and harden. Remove any solid or putty-like deposit promptly using a dull knife or spatula-like tool. Blot up excess liquids with a stack of towels, cloth or paper. Dry absorbent clay-based materials, such as cat litter absorbers ("kitty litter") can be very useful and should be stored on site. Such dry absorbers can be swept or vacuumed up.

## **Procedure For Removing "Stains" And Other Blemishes**

### **A. "Water Borne" Residues**

Most "stains" commonly associated with playing fields can be classified as "water borne" stains. These stains are best removed using a warm, mild solution of granular household detergent (non abrasive).

#### Typical Water Borne "Stains"

Acid	Alcohol
Alkali	Beer
Blood	Chocolate/Cocoa
Coffee	Cola
Dye	Food Coloring
Fruit Juice/Gatorade	Glue
Ice Cream	Latex Paint
Milk	Mustard
Ketchup	Tea
Urine	Water Colors

1. Brush the residue with a stiff fiber brush.
2. Scrub the area with soap and water.
3. Rinse the area thoroughly with clear water to remove all traces of soap.
4. Dry with absorbent towel, if necessary.

A three percent (3%) solution of ammonia in water may be used in lieu of household detergent for more stubborn residues or stains.

### **B. Chewing Gum**

Spray with Freon and scrape to remove residue (available in aerosol packs from carpet cleaning suppliers--or use dry ice).