

Field Marking Materials

Product Spotlight

Materials available to mark sports turf areas vary greatly. Levels of field use and facility budgets generally determine which types of materials and delivery systems you'll be using on your fields.

Low-budget striping

Recreational areas with limited budgets often use herbicides or petroleum (kerosene or diesel) to stripe and mark fields. This type of marking system allows fields to go long periods without remarking.

The problem with this type of system is that it creates stripes and marks that are "un-turfed." An un-turfed surface is more prone to compaction. It may also become slick in fine-textured soils, or loose in sand or coarser-textured soils.

Loss of vegetative crown and degradation of thatch result in a change in elevation along the striped patterns. This can create a potential tripping hazard for athletes.

Lime

High schools often use a lime or whitewash system to mark their fields. Lime can be applied in dry-powder chalk form, or it can be sprayed on as a liquid slurry whitewash.

Dry powder lime is widely used as a marker for skinned areas of baseball and softball diamonds. Some facilities substitute fine marble dust to perform the same procedure.

Whitewash lime slurries mix lime with water, and they are applied with spray equipment. The lime must be fine ground, uniformly sized, and kept well agitated as a slurry to provide even-flow output and to prevent nozzle clogging.

Lime will leave a live turf system under the stripe. However, over time it may build up and cause turf thinning or death.

Water-based paint

When the budget permits, athletic facilities commonly use water-based paints that are specifically formulated as turf colorants. Compared to the other types of marking media mentioned, paint reduces turf thinning and die-back. It promotes safety by reducing the potential for tripping.

Paint requires frequent reapplication, since mowing actively growing turf constantly removes previous applications. To reduce this effect, lower the mowing height of the turf to be striped just prior to painting. Plant growth regulators can also be added to the paint.



This material originates from an article by Michael DePew and Gilbert Pulley published in the May 1997 issue of sportsTURF. To view the complete article, visit our editorial archives online at www.sportsturfonline.com. Our comprehensive archives provide instant, free access to thousands of past sportsTURF articles.

FIELD MARKING PAINT

TEMP-STRIPE

- Temporary field paint
- Easy removal following the game
- Will hold up to foul weather
- Proven effective
- Great for multipurpose fields
- Apply like normal paints

PRO-STRIPE

- Long lasting field paint
- Available in team colors and brilliant white
- Dilutable up to 3:1
- For use on both natural and artificial turf
- Will not harm grass
- (Stencils and Strippers also available)



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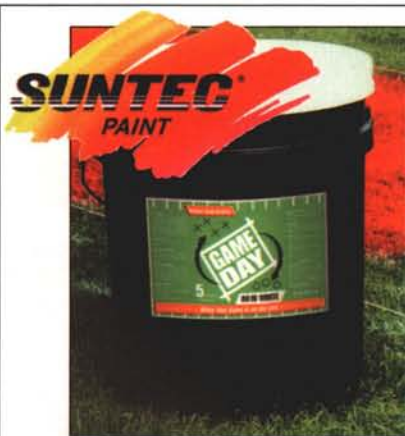
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Suntec Paint

Suntec Paint of Gainesville, Florida has developed a field marking paint for the professional, college and high school playing fields. "Game Day" is environmentally friendly, containing no ingredients that are harmful to grass.

Suntec Paint, 1111 SE 22nd Avenue, Gainesville, Florida 32641, 800-333-1104

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