

# New aggregate product being used for sports field drainage



**W**hen landscape architect John Collver of TSH Engineers, Architects & Planners began researching methods and materials to address drainage issues for the construction of an athletic field for the minor league Clarington Tiger-Cats in Ontario, Canada, he became unsure whether or not a conventional tile drain would be the best solution for the challenge of

draining a heavily used athletic field.

Collver decided on an alternative to systems historically used for sports fields, the *EZflow* drainage system. This system, manufactured by Ring Industrial and formerly used mainly for septic drain fields, features a recycled, expanded polystyrene product as an aggregate rather than gravel. The product is constructed with polystyrene beads com-



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pletely surrounding and affixed to the outside of a drainage pipe. This provides a consistent infiltrative area for absorption and removal of water. The geosynthetic drainage beads are uniform in size and shape for optimal permeability, the company says. The 10-inch diameter product is encased in netting and covered by geotextile, and each 10-foot length weighs 7 pounds, says EZflow marketing manager Trey Brady. Ring Industrial holds a patent on both the product and the process.

The system can be covered with native soil instead of sand. Native soil will recuperate faster than sand, and it can take more of a beating from players. Also, when using this product, the

slope around the field can be reduced making it easier to view the action on the field. Collver estimates the overall cost savings were 25%.

When this system was specified for the job, installer Edwin Wile of DoITurf Inc. had many questions and concerns, as he was used to constructing athletic fields with traditional gravel and tile. He found that the installation process was simple. First, the subgrade was leveled at 1 degree. Then trenches were dug 12 inches deep and 16 inches wide in a herringbone pattern. The pipe was placed in the trench, covered with Kraft paper (provided by the supplier), and then topped with screened native topsoil. Approximately 5,200 linear feet of EZflow

was installed for this job.

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Wile measures the success of a drainage system on how well it handles the freeze/thaw cycle in Canada. The product has performed well over the last cycle, and there has been no settlement. ■

*This article was supplied by Jennings Communications, Atlanta, GA. For more information see [www.ringindustrial.com](http://www.ringindustrial.com) and click on "Product Information."*

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