FieldTurf
A Tarkett Sports Company

Alternative Infill Comparative

Infill	Description	Shock Pad Required?	Additional Maintenance Required?	Advantages	Disadvantages	Price difference vs. SBR (Price does include pad)
TPE	Thermoplastic elastomers consist of materials with both thermoplastic and elastomeric properties.	Yes	No	• Strong history; product has been installed on over 500 fields worldwide for the past 10 years • Virgin material, raw materials can be controlled • Consistent shape • Good compression/compaction characteristics • Can be melted so they can be recycled after use • Can be colored	• Varying grades of TPE. Improper formulation can lead to premature aging issues and potential failure (well documented cases) • Very expensive; higher quality materials must be imported from Europe • All particles are the same size– do not settle together • Round particles can create slipping problems on sidewalks or tracks • Virgin material	$2.55
CoolPlay	Extruded cork composite, made up primarily of natural cork, polyethylene and elastomers.	No	No	• Organic and Virgin material on top of the field where athletes come into contact with the infill. • Proven heat reduction - Significant 30-35 degree heat reduction • No change in Playability vs. Sand/Cryo rubber system. • Natural UV Resistance • Good compression/compaction characteristics • Least expensive option	• Crumb rubber still utilized in the system • Breakdown of top cork layer over time • Virgin material	$0.40
EPDM	A copolymer of ethylene and propylene having diene linkages that can be cross-linked with peroxides or sulfur.	Yes	No	• Virgin material–control of raw materials • High to medium resiliency depending on filler level • Can be colored	• Expensive; higher quality materials must be imported from Europe • Potential failure (well documented cases – over 100 field failures in Europe) • High filler level can result in chalking, degradation of materials • Improper crosslinking can lead to premature aging	N/A (same pricing as TPE)

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Nike Grind	Proprietary rubber mixture for running shoes. By-product of the shoe production process.	No	No	• Not "SBR" rubber. Less public perception of health risks • Play is similar to a sand/rubber field • No pad needed • Post-industrial recycled material	• Still rubber, just not SBR tire rubber. • Multi-color rubber, different "look" • Limited supply (40 fields/year) • Unknown control over source of supply • Waste from Asia	$1.50
EcoMax	Mixture of recycled turf and TPE.	Yes	No	• Great playability characteristics (plays close to high end Cryogenic rubber/sand infill system) • Good compression/compaction characteristics • Tested rigorously for mechanical wear and weathering. • Slight heat reduction • High quality TPE with a strong environmental story (recycled turf) • Made in North America	• Expensive • Limited supply • Limited installation history	$1.40
Organic (Fiber Based)	Primarily coconut husks, coconut peat and rice husks.	Yes	Yes	• Fully Organic material • Proven heat reduction • Natural UV Resistance • Infill looks like natural soil • Natural product–not chemically produced • Provides playing characteristics similar to natural turf • Retains water for evaporative cooling	• Fiber material will break down over time. • Requires a watering system and water to maintain playability • Some migration of infill may occur • Additional maintenance needed • Higher Price • Requires more maintenance and refreshing than crumb rubber fields • Limited resilience	$1.85 (plus irrigation)
Organic (Cork Based)	100% cork, derived directly from cork trees.	Yes	Yes	• Fully Organic material • Good compression/compaction characteristics • Proven heat reduction • No water needed • Natural UV Resistance • Infill looks like natural soil • Fire-retardant • No smell	• Expensive option with additional long term maintenance requirements • Some migration of infill may occur • Low density allows material to float, cling to fibers with static charge	$.75

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