



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is BrockFILL?

BrockFILL is an engineered wood particle infill specifically designed for artificial turf. It's made here in the USA from a species of southern pine that is grown, harvested, and replanted in continuous cycles, making it ideal for a sustainable, renewable organic infill product.

Does BrockFILL break down?

BrockFILL does not break down in practical terms. The average particle size after 20,000 Lisport cycles (equivalent to 8 years of field use) is about 90% of its original size. BrockFILL is far more durable than cork or coconut husk infills and has a 10-year warranty.

Will it mold?

Mold will not grow in the infertile environment of artificial turf. Mold likes dark, wet, and static environments. An artificial turf field is the opposite. Wood has been used in playground applications with weed barriers for decades because of this property. The turf and shock pad, plus the stone base, create the ideal usage environment for BrockFILL.

How much does it cost?

A BrockFILL/sand system is about the same price as a proper sand and rubber mix. Our recipe for a typical 2" turf is approximately 4 lbs sand and 1 lb BrockFILL. But unlike crumb rubber, which is processed at many different sites, BrockFILL is made and quality controlled in a single factory in Georgia; depending on your project location, the shipping charges may add a few thousand dollars. BrockFILL is less costly than other alternatives to crumb rubber that can add \$50,000 to the cost of a project or even more.

What kind of lead time will those buying it need?

Brock carries inventory of all our products and we typically ship material within one week of approved purchase order. Delivery will depend on location and shipping time. Full production begins May 2019.

Does BrockFILL require any specific grooming equipment other than what is traditionally distributed by turf companies? If so, what equipment is needed?

No. The same equipment used for grooming rubber or cork can be used for BrockFILL. Talk to your turf company about their maintenance protocols and frequency.

Can BrockFILL obtain FIFA Quality and FIFA Quality Pro certification?

FIFA certification is not given to individual products. It includes a comprehensive series of performance tests on the entire turf assembly, including turf, infill, and shock pad. Testing is performed on both laboratory samples and on the actual field after installation. BrockFILL has been tested in various turf systems and passed the FIFA Quality, ONE TURF, and World Rugby requirements in the lab. By 2019, we expect several turf companies will have obtained the FIFA pre-certification on their turf systems with BrockFILL. No fields have been built and tested for FIFA certification yet.

What about footing and traction?

From a biomechanical perspective, BrockFILL is a more stable layer under foot than crumb rubber, giving athletes more power and better performance. This is what took us three years to perfect. BrockFILL has passed the required performance testing limits set by sports governing bodies. All biomechanical testing reports are available upon request. As the leading advocates for safety in our industry, we started with athlete safety and performance and then engineered the optimal particle and process to achieve BrockFILL.

Will BrockFILL cause splinters?

BrockFill does not contain splinters and will not splinter. We use special equipment during the manufacturing process that removes long particles that could become splinters. A successive conditioning process buffs and smooths particles into a non-abrasive infill. Splinters normally occur when contact is made with fixed, rough wood material such as lumber. BrockFILL particles are mobile and move under load to prevent splintering.

How much cooler will my field be compared to rubber?

A lot of the heat on a field comes from the fibers. When BrockFILL is dry, the field will typically be about 20 °F cooler than rubber infill. When BrockFILL is moist from condensation or rain, the field can be 40 °F cooler or more, depending on the climate and weather conditions. When moist, BrockFILL can keep the field cool for the whole day.

Does it burn?

BrockFILL does not sustain combustion in a turf system. The reason is that when a flame source is removed, the small particles don't generate enough heat to ignite other particles. BrockFILL has passed all the flammability tests and if you'd like to see a demonstration, watch the "Torch" video on our website.

How much BrockFILL goes in my turf?

It's really up to the turf companies to say, but in general 1 lb of BrockFILL covers about 1 sq. foot in a 2" turf. This equates to roughly 18mm of BrockFILL (~3/4"). Below that is 4 lbs of sand, measuring about 14 mm in depth, for a total infill depth of 32 mm in a 50 mm turf. Now you have the ideal ballast and performance layer in your turf.

How does it behave in cold climates?

All fields, no matter what infill is used, will freeze in extremely cold climates. The real issue is how fast they thaw out. BrockFILL is a hydrophilic, natural material that will retain moisture much like a natural grass field. This means an artificial turf field with BrockFILL will behave like a natural turf field in cold climates. But the fibers in artificial turf will still heat up and melt snow faster than natural grass. A salt solution or Magnesium Chloride for snowmelt can be used to accelerate the melting process.

Will it attract termites?

BrockFILL does not attract termites. Dry wood termites need a significant volume of solid wood in which to live and feed. BrockFILL is made of particles that are too small for termites to inhabit. In addition, termites are not able to withstand the temperatures encountered on outdoor artificial turf fields - even on a BrockFILL field that's cooler than your typical field. Just thirty minutes of exposure to 120 °F temperatures would kill any dry wood termite nymphs that are present.

What about splash?

When tested, BrockFILL had the lowest splash of ANY infill, and it performs even better when damp. It also doesn't change the spin on the ball as much as crumb rubber and provides a more natural ball response.

Will it float?

Scientifically speaking, anything less dense than water will "float." Because BrockFILL is hydrophilic, it absorbs water and gains weight when exposed to rain or irrigation. This means BrockFILL is much less prone to floating and migration than cork. When fully saturated with moisture, BrockFILL particles become denser than water and will not float. BrockFILL is as stable as rubber in heavy rains, if not more.

How does it compare with cork?

BrockFILL is about 30% heavier when dry, and 60% heavier when wet. Since cork repels water, it floats in heavy rains. BrockFILL holds water, so it is more stable and won't float or migrate like cork. When tested for abrasion at a leading third-party lab, BrockFILL was found to be less abrasive than cork. It's also far more durable. Cork is sourced overseas and is much more expensive than BrockFILL.

What is a recommended turf?

The most common system we foresee is a 2" turf height with 4 lbs sand topped with about 1 lb BrockFILL, all over a Brock shock pad, of course. This system leaves 18 mm of exposed pile. It can be used in shorter pile systems, but most multi-sport fields use at least a 2" turf.

Can game lines be painted on BrockFILL?

Yes, you may paint lines on BrockFILL. The material will hold the colors as well as any other infill and may preserve the definition slightly longer due to the lower splash and the absorption of the paint color.

How often does it need to be replenished?

This is variable and depends heavily on hours of use. The material doesn't really break down, so replenishment is only needed when the material "walks off the field." Keep an eye on heavy use areas for maintenance. Starting in 2020 we will supply small 40 lb bale bags for maintenance so you can use a small fertilizer spreader, making it easy, fast and inexpensive to replenish. We encourage people to do maintenance on their field and replenish the infill to keep the field in top condition and get more years of use from it.

Do weeds grow in BrockFILL?

Under normal conditions weeds do not grow in BrockFILL. There is not a good source of nutrition to promote plant growth. However, weeds are tenacious and can even grow in crumb rubber, so if they do grow an organic weed killer can be used.

How long is the warranty?

The BrockFILL warranty is 10 years. Turf lasts longer when installed over a shock pad than when laid directly over stone, so the BrockFILL warranty is longer than the typical 8-year turf warranty.

Does it need to be watered?

No. BrockFILL doesn't break down when dry. The particles are hydrophilic and will absorb moisture from rain and condensation. Moisture makes the material even better, but it will still perform well when dry and be cooler than a crumb rubber field.

With 4 lbs of sand, will sand fuse together at the bottom over time? If so, will it continue to drain properly?

This concern was raised from those who have replaced old turf fields where there is sand on the bottom. They say the bottom layer fuses together like peanut brittle, becoming very hard and loses its resilience. Any infill will compact over time, but that is the reason we use a shock pad as an integral part of the system. Shock pads help prevent compaction of materials and provide an essential level of safety even as some compaction occurs. Fields with high sand content, even after years of use, still provide Gmax results similar to natural turf (below 100 g) when installed over quality shock pads.

What is the best method for snow removal?

Use a rubber tipped snow plow and follow the turf company's recommendations for removing snow.