

PREMIUM GRASS BLADES



Synthetic Turf for Childcare Outdoor Play Areas in BC

A Product Selection & Planning Guide for Childcare Operators,
Contractors & Project Teams

Prepared by Premium Grass Blades
Artificial Turf Supply • Product Documentation • Project Support

A Better Way to Plan Childcare Turf Projects

Choosing synthetic turf for a childcare outdoor play area is different from choosing turf for a standard landscape installation. The surface may be used by children, staff, families, and maintenance teams every day, so the decision should consider more than colour, price, or availability.

A strong childcare turf system should be planned around durability, drainage, cleanability, comfort, maintenance, and product documentation. It should also be reviewed with site-specific conditions in mind, including access, base preparation, drainage, use zones, and any playground fall-zone requirements.

This guide was created to help childcare operators, contractors, project teams, and decision-makers ask better questions before selecting synthetic turf for an outdoor play space.

For Childcare Operators

- Understand what to look for before approving a turf quote.

For Contractors

- Support your estimate with clearer product information and stronger documentation.

For Project Teams

- Review surface options with a focus on risk reduction, long-term performance, maintenance planning, and documentation.

A turf system should not only look good on installation day. It should be selected, installed, and maintained with the long-term use of the space in mind.

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Why Childcare Turf Needs a Different Standard

Childcare outdoor play areas are used differently from standard lawns. Children run, sit, crawl, fall, play, eat, and gather on the surface throughout the day. Staff need the area to be easy to inspect, easy to maintain, and usable through changing weather conditions.

For that reason, synthetic turf for childcare spaces should be evaluated as a complete outdoor surface system — not just as a grass product.

A well-planned system should consider:

Durability

Can the turf handle daily use without quickly flattening or breaking down?

Drainage

Will the surface continue to perform through wet BC weather?

Cleanability

Can debris, spills, and organic material be managed with a practical maintenance routine?

Comfort

Does the system include appropriate surface support, comfort, and cushioning considerations?

Documentation

Can the supplier provide clear product information, testing documentation, and support if questions come up later?

When the end users are children, surface selection should be based on more than appearance and price.

Common Problems With Poorly Planned Turf

Most turf problems do not start on installation day. They start when the product is selected without enough attention to drainage, infill, base preparation, maintenance, and long-term use.

In childcare spaces, those issues become more visible because the surface is used daily and must remain clean, consistent, and easy to manage.

Unclear Product Origin

Generic turf with limited documentation can make it harder for project teams to assess material quality.

Poor Drainage

Standing water, slow drying, and saturated areas can reduce usability and create maintenance concerns.

No System Thinking

Turf, infill, foam pad, base preparation, and drainage should be reviewed together — not treated as separate afterthoughts.

Flattening Fibres

Lower-weight or poorly supported turf may flatten faster in high-traffic areas such as gates, pathways, and play zones.

Odour & Organic Buildup

Leaves, food, spills, and organic debris can work into the surface if there is no clear maintenance plan.

Limited Quote Support

A low price without product details, maintenance guidance, or supplier documentation can leave owners with unanswered questions.

What to Look for in a Childcare Turf System

A childcare turf system should be reviewed as a complete assembly. The turf surface matters, but so do the infill, underlayment, drainage design, base preparation, maintenance plan, and supplier support behind it.

The Surface Must Perform

Look for turf that is suitable for regular foot traffic, outdoor weather exposure, and repeated use in the same zones. High-use childcare areas often wear first near gates, entrances, pathways, play structures, and gathering areas.

A stronger system should support:

- Durable turf fibres
- Stable infill distribution
- Effective drainage
- Simple cleaning
- Long-term appearance retention
- Comfortable everyday use

The System Should Be Documented

Project teams should be able to review what is being supplied, how it is intended to perform, and what documentation is available.

Ask for:

- Product specifications
- Material transparency documentation
- Maintenance guidance
- Supplier contact information
- Installation considerations
- Fall-zone review notes where playground equipment is present

The best turf quote is not always the shortest quote.
It is the one that answers the right questions before the project begins.

Material Transparency & Third-Party Testing

Premium Grass Blades maintains manufacturer-supplied documentation for material transparency and project review. Manufacturer confirmation on file indicates that Evergreen / EVGN is produced using the same raw materials covered by the available test documentation and does not contain recycled materials.

Current documentation includes third-party testing and certification information related to several key materials and manufacturing standards. Product-specific applicability should always be confirmed against the selected turf product and final project requirements.

Manufacturing Certifications

- Available manufacturer documentation may include ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001, CE conformity, and BSCI-related manufacturing information.

Product-Specific Review

- Final documentation should always be matched to the selected turf product, project requirements, and intended use.

Flame Classification

- Manufacturer-supplied fire classification documentation is available for review.

REACH Documentation

- Supports review of substances of very high concern under European chemical safety standards.

RoHS Documentation

- Screens for restricted substances such as lead, mercury, cadmium, and other regulated materials.

PAHs Documentation

- Reviews selected polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, a group of substances commonly evaluated in synthetic materials.

PFAS Documentation

- Supports review of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, often requested in modern material transparency discussions.

Material testing helps provide transparency about product composition, restricted substances, and manufacturing documentation.

It does not replace site-specific review for drainage, installation quality, playground equipment use zones, fall-height requirements, maintenance planning, or approval by the applicable project consultant or licensing authority.

Drainage, Cleanability & BC Weather

British Columbia's wet, seasonal climate makes drainage and maintenance planning especially important for childcare outdoor spaces. A surface that looks good in dry weather still needs to perform through rain, shade, organic debris, seasonal change, and daily use.

Synthetic turf should be reviewed as part of a complete drainage-conscious system, including the turf, infill, underlayment, base preparation, slope, edging, and maintenance routine.

Why This Matters

Childcare operators need outdoor areas that are usable, inspectable, and practical to maintain. Poor drainage or organic buildup can reduce usability and create avoidable maintenance concerns.

Drainage Planning

The turf surface, foam pad, base preparation, and site slope should work together to move water away from the play area. Drainage performance depends heavily on proper installation and site conditions.

Cleanability

A well-planned turf system should allow routine debris removal, rinsing when needed, brushing, and periodic professional maintenance. Clear care instructions help staff manage the surface after installation.

Seasonal Use

BC play areas may deal with rain, shade, leaves, moss pressure, and freeze-thaw conditions. Product selection and installation planning should reflect the real environment where the turf will be used.



A premium childcare turf system should be selected for how it performs after the first rainy season — not just how it looks on day one.

Cushioning, Foam Pad & Fall-Zone Considerations

For childcare outdoor play areas, cushioning should be reviewed carefully. A foam pad beneath synthetic turf can help improve comfort and provide an added support layer under the surface, but cushioning requirements depend on the use of the space and the equipment installed.

Where playground equipment is present, fall-zone and impact attenuation requirements may apply.

What Foam Pad Can Support

A turf foam pad can help provide:

- Additional surface comfort
- A more forgiving feel underfoot
- Support beneath the turf layer
- Improved play-area experience
- A defined underlayment layer within the turf system

Foam pad selection should consider thickness, drainage, installation method, base preparation, and the intended use of the area.

What Must Be Confirmed Separately

Where turf is installed under or around playground equipment, the project team should confirm:

- Equipment fall height
- Required use zones
- Impact attenuation requirements
- Foam pad thickness and product type
- Complete installed surface assembly
- Applicable consultant or licensing requirements

The correct surface assembly may vary depending on the specific play equipment and site conditions.

Important Fall-Zone Note

Premium Grass Blades can provide product guidance and supplier documentation, but fall-height compliance and playground surfacing requirements must be confirmed by the project consultant, playground designer, installer, or qualified safety professional.

A turf and foam pad system should not be assumed to meet fall-zone requirements unless the complete installed assembly has been reviewed or tested for that specific use.

Recommended Premium Grass Blades Surface System

For childcare outdoor play areas, Premium Grass Blades recommends reviewing the surface as a complete system rather than a turf-only product. Each component should be selected to support durability, drainage, cleanability, comfort, and long-term usability.

The recommended system can be adapted based on site conditions, playground equipment, drainage requirements, and project-specific review.

01 – Evergreen Synthetic Turf

A durable, natural-looking turf surface selected for outdoor spaces where regular use, appearance, drainage, and long-term performance matter.

02 – Zeo-Odour Natural Zeolite Infill

A natural mineral infill used to help manage odour-causing compounds and support cleaner long-term surface performance.

03 – Turf Armour Performance Infill

A performance infill designed to help support turf fibres, resist compaction, and improve long-term surface consistency in high-use areas.

04 – PGB Turf Foam Pad

A cushioning underlayment placed beneath the turf to add surface comfort and support. Fall-zone requirements must be reviewed separately where playground equipment is present.

Available Project Support Options

- Supply-only package
- Contractor bid-support package
- Project-specific product recommendation
- Installer referral support
- Documentation package available upon request

Childcare Surface System Package Available

Supply-only pricing is available for Evergreen Synthetic Turf, Zeo-Odour, Turf Armour, and PGB Turf Foam Pad.

Installation pricing should be quoted separately after site review. Site access, drainage, excavation, base preparation, edging, disposal, equipment use zones, and existing ground conditions can significantly affect installation requirements.

Maintenance Planning for Childcare Facilities

A childcare turf system should come with a realistic maintenance plan. The goal is not to create extra work for staff – it is to keep the surface clean, consistent, and easier to manage over time.

Routine care will depend on use levels, tree coverage, drainage, weather, food or spill exposure, and how heavily the space is used.

Daily / As Needed

- Remove leaves, branches, food wrappers, and loose debris.
- Address spills or organic material promptly.
- Rinse affected areas with water when needed.
- Inspect high-use areas near gates, entrances, pathways, and play structures.

Monthly / Routine Care

- Brush or rake high-traffic areas to help maintain fibre position.
- Check edges, seams, and transition zones for lifting or separation.
- Review infill levels in heavy-use zones.
- Note any areas that appear compacted, uneven, or slow to drain.

Seasonal / Professional Care

- Schedule professional power brooming as needed based on use level.
- Review drainage after heavy rain periods.
- Remove moss, weeds, and organic buildup around edges.
- Top up infill if required.
- Inspect the surface before peak spring and summer use.

A maintenance plan protects the investment.

The best turf system is not maintenance-free – it is maintenance-manageable. Clear care expectations help preserve appearance, drainage, cleanliness, and long-term usability.

Questions to Ask Before Accepting a Turf Quote

Not all turf quotes provide the same level of detail. Before approving a childcare outdoor play surface, project teams should understand what product is being supplied, how the system will be installed, and what support is available after installation.

- 1 What turf product is being supplied, and can the supplier provide a specification sheet?
- 2 Is the turf supported by material transparency or third-party testing documentation?
- 3 What infill is being used, and why was it selected for this environment?
- 4 How will the system manage drainage through wet BC weather?
- 5 Is a foam pad or underlayment included, and what role does it serve?
- 6 If playground equipment is present, who is confirming fall-zone or impact attenuation requirements?
- 7 What base preparation is included in the installation scope?
- 8 Are edging, disposal, access limitations, drainage corrections, and site-specific extras included or quoted separately?
- 9 What maintenance routine is recommended for the facility after installation?
- 10 Who provides product support if questions come up after the project is complete?

A strong quote should not leave the owner guessing.

For childcare projects, documentation, maintenance planning, and site-specific review are part of the value — not extras.

Project Support & Next Steps

Premium Grass Blades supports childcare turf projects with product guidance, supply recommendations, documentation, and installer referral support where available.

Whether you are planning a new outdoor play area, reviewing a contractor quote, or preparing a project submission, our team can help clarify the turf system before decisions are made.

Product Recommendations

We can recommend turf, infill, underlayment, and support products based on the intended use of the space.

Documentation Support

Specification sheets, material transparency documentation, maintenance guidance, and supplier support letters may be provided for project review.

Contractor Support

Contractors can request bid-support materials to include with estimates for childcare, school, commercial, or municipal projects.

Installer Referral

Premium Grass Blades can connect clients with experienced independent installers where available. Installation pricing is quoted separately after site review.

Installation Pricing Note

Installation costs vary by project. Access, excavation depth, base preparation, drainage, disposal, edging, playground equipment, fall-zone requirements, and existing ground conditions can significantly affect final installation pricing.

Planning a childcare turf project?

Contact Premium Grass Blades to request a product recommendation, supply estimate, or documentation package.

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BC's Artificial Turf & Surface System Specialists

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