

CARE + MAINTENANCE

# How to keep your turf *looking new for 15+ years.*

A practical guide written by the people who install Rainline turf across Salem and Portland. Pacific Northwest specific. No mystery products. No maintenance contract you don't need.

## START HERE

# The basics

Artificial turf doesn't need much. A weekly rinse, a monthly brush, attention to high-traffic spots, and you're ahead of 90% of yards. Skip those and you cut years off the install.

**The 60-second rule:** If you can spend 60 seconds on your turf each week — hose pass, quick visual inspection — you're doing it.

## STANDING THE BLADES UP

# Brushing

Foot traffic and pet use lay blades flat over time. A monthly brush against the grain stands them back up.

- Tool: stiff synthetic-bristle broom (never metal)
- Direction: against the grain, long even strokes
- Frequency: high-traffic weekly, low-traffic monthly
- Power broom: rent annually (~\$60/day) for a full reset

## HOSE PASS

# Rinsing

Salem-Portland rain handles most of the work nine months a year. Where you have to step in: dry zones (covered patios, under trees, eaves), pet zones, and pollen season.

- Standard rinse: 30–60 sec garden hose, light pressure
- Pollen season (Mar–May): weekly rinse
- Pet zones: weekly minimum. Daily for kennel use
- Never pressure-wash — blasts infill, damages backing

## MULTI-DOG HOUSEHOLDS + KENNELS

### Pet yards

The biggest reason pet yards smell isn't pet urine — it's urine that didn't drain through plus bacterial growth in the infill. Right product + right infill + weekly rinse and you go years without odor.

- Right product: 100% perforated backing (Pup Turf)
- Right infill: antimicrobial / zeolite-based, not cheap silica
- Weekly rinse: 30-second hose pass
- Monthly: enzymatic cleaner on heavy zones (diluted 1:16)
- Chronic markers: 1:10 vinegar-water as spot treatment
- Never: bleach (bleaches blades), pine cleaners, steam

**If your pet yard already smells:** the fix is almost always under the surface, not on it. Email [hello@rainlineturf.com](mailto:hello@rainlineturf.com) and we'll walk through what's installed.

## SPILLS + SPOTS

### Stain quick-reference

STAIN	WHAT TO USE	HOW
Coffee, tea, juice	1 tsp mild dish soap in 1 cup warm water	Blot, apply solution, wait 5 min, blot, rinse
Red wine	Cold water rinse + dish soap solution	Immediate cold rinse. If set, dab with 3% hydrogen peroxide (test in a hidden spot first)
Pet urine	Garden hose rinse + enzymatic cleaner if needed	30-sec rinse covers most cases. For chronic spots, enzymatic cleaner diluted 1:16
Pet waste (solid)	Pick up, then rinse	Bag it. Rinse the spot. Antimicrobial infill underneath handles the rest
Grease, oil, lipstick	Mineral spirits on a cloth	Dab (don't pour). Follow with dish soap + warm water rinse
Gum, candle wax, sap	Ice it, then peel	Freeze with ice pack 5 min, scrape off with plastic spatula. Mineral spirits for residue
Mold or mildew	1:1 white vinegar + water	Spray, wait 10 min, scrub with synthetic brush, rinse. Address underlying drainage
BBQ grease	Dish soap + warm water	Blot excess, soap solution, agitate gently with synthetic brush, rinse

*Universal rule: blot, don't scrub. Apply, wait 5 minutes, blot, rinse.*

## Seasonal calendar (Salem-Portland)

### OCT – APR

#### Rainy season

- Rain handles most cleaning — let it work
- Brush leaf litter weekly
- Inspect drainage monthly
- Clear moss from perimeter (vinegar 1:1)
- Check seams after first freeze

### MAR – MAY

#### Pollen + spring

- Weekly hose rinse to clear pollen
- Brush high-traffic zones every 2 weeks
- Hand-pull volunteer weeds at perimeter
- Spring infill check — top up where needed

### JUN – MID-SEP

#### Summer heat

- Quick cold rinse on hot afternoons (drops temp ~25°F)
- Shade where pets lie
- Monthly brush + infill check on high-use zones
- Watch for reflected-sunlight melt spots

### LATE SEP – NOV

#### Leaf drop

- Plastic-tined leaf rake or leaf blower weekly
- Never metal rakes
- Pre-winter inspection
- Power-broom + infill top-up before rainy season

## UNDER THE SURFACE

### Infill upkeep

- Annual check: press boot into high-use area. Flat blades = low infill
- Top up with drop spreader (rent ~\$30), then brush against grain
- Rates: 1.5 lbs/sqft residential, 2 lbs/sqft pet

## THE EXPENSIVE MISTAKES

### What kills turf

- Reflected sunlight from low-e windows (focuses beam, melts blades)
- Open flames + cigarettes + fire pits within 3 ft
- Pressure washers (blast out infill)
- Metal tools (tear backing). Plastic only
- Petroleum products (gas, oil) — degrade backing
- Heavy stationary loads (trampolines, pools) — compact infill
- Sprinkler overspray — mineral deposits

## SMALL FIXES

### Small repairs (DIY)

For small tears, burns, or seam separations under 12 inches:

1. Trim frayed blades flush with surface using sharp scissors
2. Cut a patch from a turf scrap, match blade direction
3. Lay seam tape under cut edges, run a bead of turf adhesive
4. Press patch, weight with sandbags 24 hrs, brush against grain

**Bigger than 12 inches?** Call us. We handle warranty + post-warranty repairs in Salem-Portland.

## WHAT WE DO FOR YOU

### When to call a pro

- Annual deep clean — power broom + redistribution + spot disinfect (~\$0.18/sqft)
- Kennel deep clean — quarterly for boarding facilities
- Seam repair beyond 12 inches
- Standing water — usually a base drainage issue
- Persistent smell after rinse + cleaner — traces back to install

## KEEP YOUR COVERAGE INTACT

### Warranty + care notes

Manufacturer warranties (10–20 years on Rainline turf) require reasonable care. Specifically, not:

- Pressure washers, metal tools, or harsh solvents
- Flames, melting agents, or focused reflected sunlight
- Letting pet waste sit extended periods without rinsing (pet warranty only)
- Modifying install (seams, edging, base) without authorization

Follow this guide and you're inside the warranty envelope. Questions? [hello@rainlineturf.com](mailto:hello@rainlineturf.com).

#### Rainline Turf Co.

Salem-Portland install + PNW + Mountain West supply. [hello@rainlineturf.com](mailto:hello@rainlineturf.com) · [rainlineturf.com](http://rainlineturf.com)