

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING SAFE PROFESSIONAL QUALITY PITCHER'S MOUNDS & HOME PLATE AREAS

PITCHER'S MOUNDS and **BATTER'S BOXES** are the main maintenance problem areas on ballfields. There are three main ways of installing and maintaining pitcher's mounds and batter's boxes:

1. PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY -The best and traditional way is to use a good quality pitcher's mound clay. Please refer to the next page of detailed instructions. Pitcher's mound clay comes in several brands. Which is best for you depends on your location and the consistency you prefer:

BEAM CLAY® Pitcher's Mound Clay is all natural, extra firm RED, ORANGE, or BROWN clay, medium firm GREY (blue gumbo) or TAN clay, or medium firm HOME PLATE CLAY (orange/brown). Each comes pulverized, screened, and dry – you add a little water and compact. Available from NJ.

PRO'S CHOICE® PRO MOUND® is extra firm, moist and chunky, DARK GREY (blue gumbo) clay. Add water, if needed, and compact. Available from MS, IL, NJ.

CALIFORNIA RED Mound Clay is extra firm RED clay. Add water and compact.

DIAMOND PRO® Mound/Home Plate Clay is medium firm ORANGE/BROWN clay or **Professional Mound Clay** is extra firm TAN clay. Add water and compact. Available from TX.

MAR MOUND™ Mound/Home Plate Clay is medium firm RED clay. Add water and compact. Available from TN.

HILLTOPPER® Mound & Home Plate Clay is medium firm REDDISH/BROWN clay, polymer enhanced to compact without needing to add water, especially recommended for artificial turf infields. Available from AZ, NJ.

Good local clay, if available. We have several regional mound clays available.

These are best if the same person or crew maintains these areas, as they need to be installed and maintained properly (see Beam Clay® Installation Instructions for Pitcher's Mounds and Batter's & Catcher's Boxes). Installed properly the whole area becomes one solid piece of clay 4-6" deep.

2. MOUND & BATTER'S BOX BRICKS ("green" unfired clay bricks) are cleaner and easier to use than pitcher's mound clay because they are already moistened and compacted. When worn, they can be simply replaced. But, remember you are paying to ship water (it takes approximately 14 mound bricks to equal one 50 lb. bag of mound clay compacted); and, mound bricks are individual blocks only 2-3/8" thick, whereas mound/home plate clay properly installed 4-6" deep becomes one solid piece of 4-6" thick mound or batter's box clay.

Directions: Dig down 3-4", install mound bricks, water (letting water soak in), tamp (try to compact together), cover with infield mix, replace as needed. Cover with a rain tarp when not in use. If not possible, cover with a light coating of mound top-dressing to maintain correct moisture level.

3. PERMA MOUND™ Permanent Pitcher's Mound Pads and **SAFE "T" MATT SYSTEM Permanent Batter's/Catcher's Box Pads** are patented poured red polyurethane pads which install 2" below the surface and reduce 95% of the maintenance in these high-wear areas, while providing the safety and feel of properly maintained clay. Great for recreation departments with several high-use fields and for ballfields where various coaches/parents/players are repairing these areas. They simply drag infield mix back over pads.

YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE" FOR AMERICA'S BASEBALL SURFACES & SUPPLIES!

Baseball's First Choice For Consistent Professional Quality Pitcher's Mounds



BEAM CLAY[®] PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY

The Mound Clay Used By Over 100 Pro Teams!
Extra Firm • Consistent • Affordable

Comes pulverized for easy handling—just wet and compact—for truly firm mounds.

All natural ingredients available in extra firm red, orange, brown, or medium firm in orange, tan or grey.

BEAM CLAY[®] PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY can be worked in to firm up an existing mound or other playing surface. The amount used will depend on the firmness of the existing material and the firmness desired.

However, for truly firm, professional quality pitcher's mounds, make the top 6" of all wear areas straight **BEAM CLAY[®]**. While building an entire regulation mound from scratch requires 5 tons (200 bags), you can use as little as 5-10 bags to patch wear spots 6" deep, approximately 40 bags to resurface the flat top platform and front slope 6" deep, or another 60 bags to resurface the balance of the mound 2" deep. Little League mounds require approximately 1/3 as much, 13 bags for every 1" depth.

Points to remember when installing **BEAM CLAY[®] PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY**

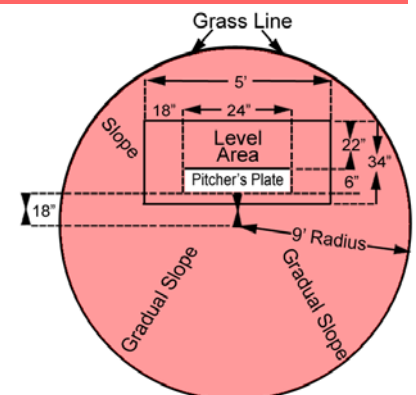
- 1) The end result you are working to achieve is for the entire mound to become one solid mass of clay without any loose (not compacted) layers within it.
- 2) When using **BEAM CLAY[®] PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY** for the first time on an existing mound where the new clay will be on top of another material, install a bonding layer by mixing ½" of new material into 1" of existing, then wetting and compacting, so they will adhere together. When creating this bonding layer, dry mound clay will work in easier. When the bonding layer is complete, use pre-moistened mound clay to finish mound reconstruction.
- 3) Get the right moisture content by uniformly moistening the mound clay (in a wheelbarrow, bucket, or outside pile) so that, when compacted, you can just barely push your thumbnail into it— that's playing texture! Remember, if the mound clay is too dry, it will not compact into one solid mass; if the mound clay is too wet, it will not properly compact and will try to squeeze out the sides and will crack when dry until properly compacted. If too wet, just tamp in more dry mound clay to get proper firmness.
- 4) For the mound to function properly, it must be firmly compacted – use a heavy hand tamper and slam it down!

■ NEW CONSTRUCTION

A regulation pitcher's mound is exactly 10" above home plate and the front of the rubber is exactly 60'6" from the apex (pointed end) of home plate. Drive a stake at the proper distance from home plate in line with second base and mark the correct elevation. This marks the front and top surface of the pitcher's rubber.

The mound is then constructed with a nine foot radius from a point 18" in front of the rubber. A flat top to the mound should be provided extending 18" on either side of the rubber, 22" behind, and 6" in front with a gradual slope. Thus, the mound is not cone shaped with a peak in the center of the circle. The mound has a large flat top for pitchers to stand on, steeper slopes on the back and sides, and a 6' long gradual slope (1" per foot) in the front with a flat area in front.

While an entire mound requires 5 tons of **BEAM CLAY[®] PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY**, it is perfectly alright to start with a firm base of local material then finish the mound with 2 tons (80 bags) or less of Mound Clay – if you follow the resurfacing instructions and take care to install at least 6" deep in all wear areas.



Layout of Pitcher's Mound
Not to Scale

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■ RESURFACING INSTRUCTIONS

When using **BEAM CLAY® PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY** for the first time, install a BONDING LAYER: first remove 6" from the wear areas of the existing mound (at the pitchers rubber and the landing areas, or better the entire flat top and front slope) to insure a good base that won't push out from underneath. Then in the areas you have dug out, mix at least ½" of dry **BEAM CLAY® PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY** into the top 1" of your existing material. This creates a bonding layer, so that the materials won't crack where they interface, which would make the mound very difficult to properly compact.

Thoroughly wet and compact the bonding layer firmly with a heavy hand tamper. Moisten again, then install straight pre-moistened **BEAM CLAY® PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY** in 2" layers, thoroughly compacting each layer. The mound clay should be moistened just enough to compact to one solid material into which you can just barely push your thumbnail ¼". If you moisten too much, work in more dry clay. If the mound clay sticks to your tamper, it's too wet. Work in more dry clay to get proper compaction. If desired, over the rest of the mound, install a 2"-6" layer, again over a bonding layer. Scarify top ¼" surface for loose top surface, or cover with ¼" of **BEAM CLAY® BASEBALL DIAMOND MIX** or **PRO'S CHOICE®** or other mound top-dressing for a quick drying and non-sticky surface when wet.

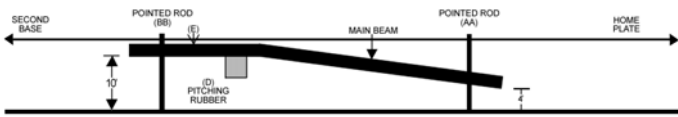
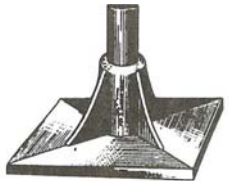
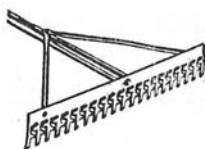
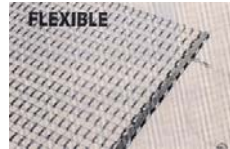





■ MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

For repairing wear areas, sweep out dry material, moisten wear spots, sweep back dry material, moisten as necessary, or add pre-moistened mound clay and tamp in. With an entire mound surface of **BEAM CLAY®** you can keep recycling the clay, otherwise add additional mound clay as needed for repairs.

It's best to cover a mound when not being used to keep excess moisture off and some moisture in; but, if that's not possible, for a quicker drying surface, the pitcher's mound clay can be covered with any of our **PITCHER'S MOUND TOP-DRESSINGS**. However, take care when doing repairs to not mix these or sandier materials into the mound; because, if worked in, these will weaken the mound clay and cause it to wear faster.

BEAM CLAY® does not eliminate maintenance, but properly installed it does reduce maintenance while giving pitchers the firm footing of a professional quality pitcher's mound.

Mound Building and Maintaining Tools

<p>Mound Building Templates Build the perfect slope every time, whether reworking existing mounds or building new ones.</p> 	<p>Tampers Heavy Duty Hand Tampers for Pitcher's Mounds.</p>  <p>Available with metal or wooden handles.</p>
<p>Aluminum Rakes Light Yet Sturdy with Sifting Teeth and Leveling Edge.</p> 	<p>Flexible Drag Mats For Mounds</p>  <p>Flexible 2' wide x 3-1/2' long drag mats for finishing mounds.</p>
<p>Rain Covers For Mounds Keep excess rain off and playing moisture in! 7 oz. woven polyethylene or 18 oz. vinyl with banded hems, brass grommets and tent stakes.</p> 	<p>Professional 4-Way Pitcher's Boxes</p>  <p>Step Down Pitcher's Rubbers</p>  <p>Econo Pitcher's Plates</p> <p>Moveable Pitching Rubbers</p>  

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■ MAINTAINING PITCHER'S MOUNDS

Maintaining a professional quality pitcher's mound takes more than just sprinkling some clay on the mound, raking it out, and forgetting about it. Properly maintaining a mound is an art and there are probably as many techniques as there are good groundskeepers.

Here are 12 points that will work for you:

1. **If your mound is too soft, recondition it.** You can recondition as little as the wear spots at the pitcher's rubber and landing areas, or the front triangle, or the entire mound.
2. **Don't use the same material on your infield and mound.** What provides a well draining and easily scarified infield, won't be firm enough for the mound. Use a firm clay.
3. **Remember, the end result** you are working to accomplish is for the entire mound to become one solid mound of clay without any loose (not compacted) layers within it. Otherwise the mound will continue to crack until properly compacted.
4. **When reconditioning a sandy mound for the first time,** remove 6" from the area to be worked to ensure a good base that won't push out from underneath.
5. **Create a bonding layer,** by mixing at least ½" of mound clay into at least the top 1" of old base; without mixing, the two materials may crack where they interface and the mound will be difficult to properly compact.
6. **Wet and compact.** Add mound clay up to grade, wetting and compacting each layer. Use a heavy mound tamper and slam it down! If you get the mound clay too wet, and it sticks to your tamper, tamp in more dry mound clay to get to proper compaction.
7. **Get the right moisture content** by moistening mound clay in wheelbarrow, bucket or outside pile, so that when a handful is rolled into a ball you can just barely push your thumb 1/4" into the ball. That's playing consistency, with cleats able to grab yet come off cleanly.
8. **Scarify** the top surface so that you have 1/4" of loose material over the very firm base.
9. **For patching,** sweep aside dry material, moisten wear spots, tamp mound clay back in.
10. **For a quicker drying surface,** the mound can be covered with 1/4" of calcined clay, sandy infield mix, or other mound top-dressing. But when doing repairs be careful to sweep these aside – do not mix them into the mound clay as they will weaken the clay and cause it to dig out faster. After finishing the repair, top-dressing can be swept back over top.
11. **Properly locate and contour the mound.** For regulation infields, the pitcher's mound is exactly 10" above home plate and the front of the rubber is exactly 60'6" from the apex (pointed end) of home plate. Drive a stake at the proper distance from home plate in line with 2nd base and, using a transit or level, mark the correct elevation. This marks the front and top surface of the pitcher's rubber.

The mound is then constructed with a nine foot radius from a point 18" in front of the rubber. A flat top to the mound should be provided extending 18" on either side of the rubber, 12-24" behind, and 6" in front with a gradual slope. Thus, the mound is not cone shaped with a peak in the center of the circle. The mound has a large flat top for pitchers to stand on, steeper slopes on the back and sides, and a 6' long gradual slope (1" per foot) in front with a flat area in front.

For other levels of baseball, please check infield layouts on our website www.BEAMCLAY.com.
12. **Maintaining proper moisture and resilience.** After repairing mound, if necessary, water the mound giving sufficient time for water to soak in. If possible, cover your mound when not in use to keep excess moisture off and some moisture and resilience in. Uncover enough time before game so that the surface is not sticky.

YOUR "ONE-STOP SOURCE" FOR AMERICA'S BASEBALL SURFACES & SUPPLIES!

BEAM CLAY® – HOME PLATE CLAY

A Specially Formulated Clay for Batter's & Catcher's Boxes!

Not as firm as the pitcher's mound, yet firmer than base paths – a medium firm clay, quicker drying, for home plate areas (and mounds) that are not covered or blend pitcher's mound clay into present batter's boxes to achieve desired degree of firmness.

■ INSTRUCTIONS

Dig batter's boxes down 4"-6"; incorporate ½" of dry Home Plate Clay into top inch of existing material to create a bonding layer; moisten and compact; moisten again, then install straight pre-moistened **BEAM CLAY® HOME PLATE CLAY**, compacting to one solid mass into which you can just barely push your thumbnail 1/4" – playing texture. You'll require approximately 4 bags per inch per batter's box, 3 bags per inch per catcher's box.

As an option, **BEAM CLAY® PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY** can be blended into your existing batter's boxes to achieve desired degree of firmness – allowing you to use less **BEAM CLAY®** and more of your existing material, but you must blend the two together. Or, for very firm batter's boxes that are covered when not in use, **BEAM CLAY® PITCHER'S MOUND CLAY** can be used straight.

Last, for whichever option you use, drag your infield mix (used in the rest of the home plate circle) 1/4"-1/2" over your batter's and catcher's boxes for a softer and quicker drying top surface over the firmer materials underneath.

For softball infields, infield mix is normally used for the pitcher's area and batter's boxes. However, when a firmer base is desired for these areas, we recommend using **BEAM CLAY® HOME PLATE CLAY** for both areas. A 10' diameter pitcher's circle requires approximately 2 tons (80 bags) for 6" depth compacted. Each set of batter's and catcher's boxes require approximately 60 bags (1½ tons) for 6" depth compacted. Again, drag 1/4"-1/2" of infield mix over top for a softer and quicker drying top surface.



USEFUL HOME PLATE TOOLS & ACCESSORIES

Safe "T" Matt System™ Permanent Batter's/Catcher's Box Pads

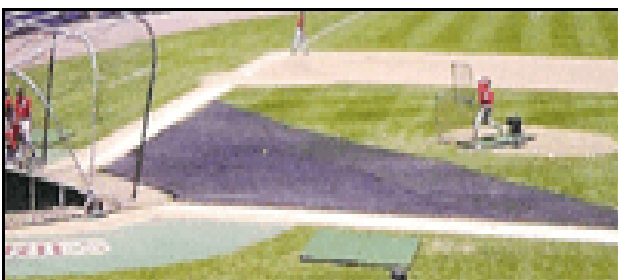
- Heavy duty, red poured polyurethane
- Feels like properly packed clay
- Eliminates deep holes at Batter's/Catcher's Box area
- Provides great footing for hitters
- Must be buried in ground with at least 2" packed clay on top
- 5 Year Wear Warranty



Home Plate Circle Rain Covers • Batter's & Catcher's Boxes Templates
Rakes, Tampers & Drags • Marking Chalk & Marking Equipment

Batting Practice Covers

PROTECT INFIELD TURF DURING BATTING PRACTICE



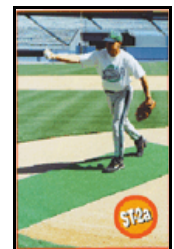
Home Plates

STANCHION 5 SPIKES



Batting Practice Mats

ARTIFICIAL TURF MATS



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PITCHER'S MOUND TOP-DRESSINGS

For Firm Mound Surfaces in Wet Conditions!

BEAM CLAY® Baseball Diamond Mix • Popular everyday pitcher's mound top-dressing, reddish-orange color, quick drying surface. Ten (50 lb.) bags for a 1/4" cover over regulation mounds.

PRO'S CHOICE® Red, Select Red, or Select Pro Red • Most absorbent, larger particles, easier to remove. Excellent mound top-dressing that can be added to other mound top-dressings in wet conditions. Permanently porous calcined montmorillonite clay. Four (1-½ cubic foot) 50 lb. bags for a 1/4" cover.

DIAMOND PRO® Red or Grey Infield Conditioner • Makes an excellent mound top-dressing. Six (50 lb.) bags for a 1/4" cover.

BEAM CLAY® Red Infield Conditioner/Top-Dressing • Also makes an excellent mound top-dressing. Use 450 lbs. for a 1/4" cover. *Only available in bulk or one-ton bulk bags.*

RED LAVA DUST • An excellent top-dressing for mounds! Deep red color, highly absorbent. Firm when wet—not sticky. Twelve (½ cubic foot) bags for a 1/4" cover.

RED BRICK DUST • Similar to Red Lava Dust but lighter red color and less absorbent. Use ten (50 lb.) bags for a 1/4" cover.

Please Note: Care must be taken with all Mound Top-Dressings to not work into and loosen the mound. When doing repairs, sweep aside and make repair with fresh mound clay. Rake top-dressing back over repair.

MOUND BRICKS

- For those who prefer using formed and compacted (but unfired) clay bricks for pitcher's mounds and batter's boxes.
- From as little as 95¢ each
- 12 locations coast to coast
- Cleaner and easier to use.
- Any quantity available, plus shipping

Cleat Cleaners



America's
1 Cleat
'De-Mudder!'

For use **on the playing field** behind pitcher's mound, at on-deck circles, coaches boxes and dug-outs. Molded rubber with 84 rubber bristles.

From World Series, All Star Games and Super Bowl Games to recreational play, **the finest product to clean cleats.**



Perma Mound™
Outdoor Pitcher's
Mound Pads

- Patented poured red polyurethane.
- Provides feel of properly packed clay.
- Can be used at or under the surface.
- Eliminate 95% of mound maintenance.
- Mound Always Game Ready.
- Great for recreation departments!

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