

Frequently Asked Questions on Colorado's SB-005

As it relates to the synthetic turf industry

Summary:

On March 15, 2024 the Governor of Colorado signed into law SB-005 which is a measure concerning the conservation of water in the state through the prohibition of certain landscaping practices, which will have little impact on the synthetic turf industry.

Here's what you need to know:

Key Findings:

- SB005 prohibits the installation of non-functional artificial turf. Therefore, artificial turf serving a functional purpose, as defined in the legislation, remains unaffected by the prohibition.
- SB005 allows local governments, municipalities, and counties to define "functional turf" in areas where municipalities may seek to install synthetic turf.
- SB005 does not restrict a local entity or the state from installing or permitting any person to install and or maintain artificial turf on athletic fields of play.
- SB005 does not prohibit a local entity or the state from installing, or authorizing any person to install, grass seed or sod that consists of native plants or has been hybridized for arid conditions.

Q&A:

What is the definition of "functional" turf?

Functional turf means turf, whether plant based or not, that is located in a recreational use area or other space that is regularly used for civic, community, or recreational purposes, which may include playgrounds; sports fields; picnic grounds; amphitheaters; portions of parks; and the playing areas of golf courses, such as driving ranges, chipping and putting greens, tee boxes, greens, fairways, and roughs.

What is the definition of "nonfunctional" turf?

Nonfunctional turf means turf that is not functional turf. Nonfunctional turf includes turf located in a street right-of-way, parking lot, median, or transportation corridor. Nonfunctional turf does not include turf that is designated to be part of a water quality treatment solution required for compliance with federal, state, or local agency water quality permitting requirements that is not irrigated and does not have herbicides applied.

Does this impact synthetic turf installation at public park areas?

No, SB-005 prohibits the installation of non-functional turf. In this context, it implies that the turf in a community park, which serves a functional purpose, remains permissible under the bill.

Does this bill impact synthetic turf being installed on sports fields?

No, SB-005 does not impede the installation of artificial turf on sports fields like football or lacrosse fields.

Can a resident still install artificial turf on their property?

Yes, SB-005 explicitly states that it does not affect residential properties.

Does the term "turf" in SB-005 refer to both artificial turf and natural grass?

Yes, the bill writers use the term "turf" to encompass both natural grass and synthetic turf in the bill.