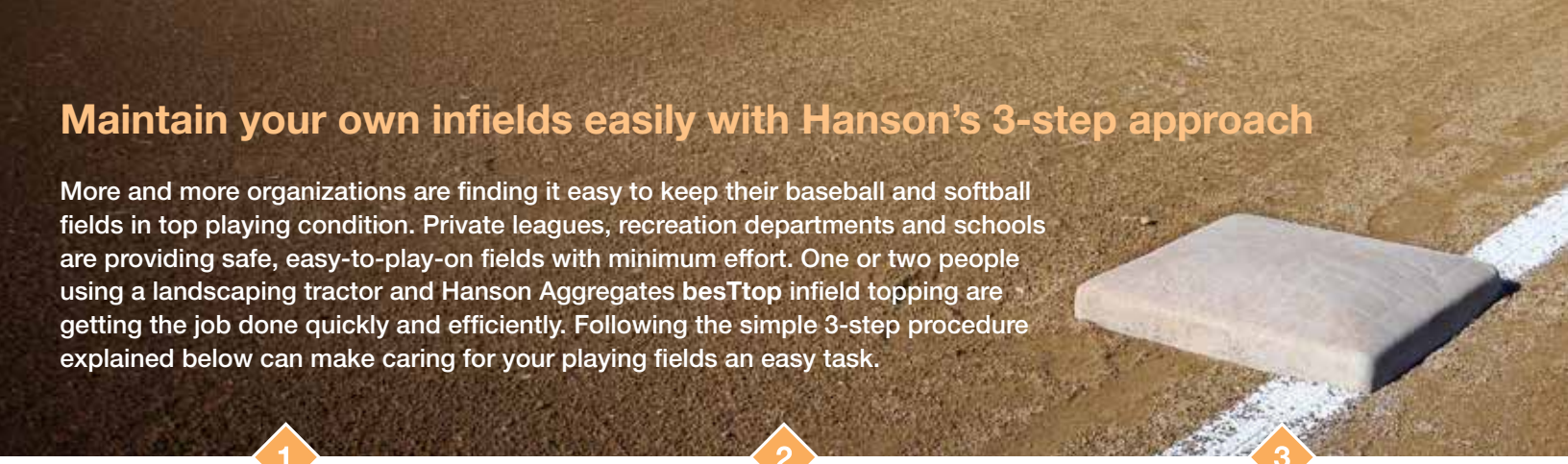
Hanson
HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group

besTtop

Sports and Specialty Mixes
for athletic fields, ball fields and tracks

Maintain your own infields easily with Hanson's 3-step approach



More and more organizations are finding it easy to keep their baseball and softball fields in top playing condition. Private leagues, recreation departments and schools are providing safe, easy-to-play-on fields with minimum effort. One or two people using a landscaping tractor and Hanson Aggregates **besTtop** infield topping are getting the job done quickly and efficiently. Following the simple 3-step procedure explained below can make caring for your playing fields an easy task.

1

PREPARING THE SKINNED AREA OF THE INFIELD

Start your preparation by removing all loose, dead sand and soil from the skinned areas as this lifeless material will both dilute infield topping additions and hinder the development of a good sub-base. First, make sure you remove all vegetation. Next, cut back and edge all borders around the skinned areas so that turf areas are level with the skinned portion of the field. This includes inside grass lines, outside grass lines, the baseline radius, the home plate area, and the pitcher's mound.

For particularly poor fields, a little more attention should be given to the edges. Any bad berms around the infield where the grass and infield topping meet should be removed from the site. For the baselines, strike a string and measure an area six feet wide. Cut the grass and weeds with a sod cutter. Raise the material and remove it. Rake the area, apply weed killer (do not use polyethylene) in baselines and skinned areas only, and resod.

For the pitcher's mound, follow the same procedures for removing the vegetation and berms as you do the baselines. To determine the area to be cleared, strike a straight string from the home plate rubber to second base. Place a stake two feet in front of the pitching rubber and draw a nine-foot circle. Remove all grass, fill in with fine top soil and sandy loam, and replace sod that has been removed.

2

APPLYING besTtop INFIELD PRODUCTS

When the danger of frost is over, the infield should be raked using a four-foot or six-foot wide steel rake. The rake may be attached to a tractor or suitable power equipment. An all-skinned infield should be raked from the pitcher's mound out to the grass edge. This should be done at least four or five times before applying any topping. The infields should be checked for any low and high areas. New **besTtop** Infield Topping should be applied to these areas to correct the contour of the field. The infield should be scarified or rototilled in several directions to reblend the infield and rejuvenate the infield topping. This process should not cut any deeper than 2–2 ½". A depth of 3–4" of infield topping should be maintained. Next, drag the infield using an infield drag. If further compaction is needed, a roller can be used. Top dress the two baselines and the field is ready for play.

If the pitcher's mound and batter's box are covered with infield topping, the topping should be removed from both areas to a depth of 8–12". For the pitcher's mound dig out an area that is the width of the pitching rubber and 6–7' in front of the rubber. For the batter's box, dig out the full size of the box. Once the areas have been prepared, fill in with pitcher's mound clay and batter's box clay. Rake the clay out, hose it down, tamp it down, and dust it with infield topping. That's all there is to it.

3

MAINTAINING THE INFIELD

Once the infield has been properly dressed prior to starting play, a few simple procedures will keep the field in top condition for the entire season. First, water should never be broomed out of low areas. Next, keep a pile of **besTtop** Infield Topping close to the field and use it as needed. Finally, the field should be scarified or rototilled and top dressed at least once or as required during the season.

Top dressing consists of ½–1" of additional **besTtop** Infield Topping graded evenly to obtain maximum drainage throughout the skinned area of the infield.

During the heavy play season the home plate area together with the pitcher's mound and any other low areas should be corrected, usually by raking the existing material around the area. New material can be added as needed. The entire skinned area of the infield should be dragged before each game, starting from the pitcher's mound to the grass edge, but not covering the grass edge.

Dragging the field in November, December, January and February, particularly after a snowfall, will keep your infield alive, making spring preparation much easier.

If the infield is grass, the grass should be limed and fertilized. In spring, when the grass and subsoil is damp, it should be rolled in two opposite directions using a one to two-ton roller.

Tip *for building a new field*

When building a new field you need to be sure that you have good drainage. To achieve this you should try to follow the natural contour of the land and be sure to use a porous subsoil so that water will not gather in puddles. For new fields, you should plan on 4" of infield topping after the field has been rolled.

We will be happy to discuss your infield topping requirements. Together we can work to ensure that you have the kind of high quality, low maintenance infields you're looking for. If you are planning a new field or reconstruction of an existing field, call our knowledgeable sales representatives at 856-447-4294.

besTtop

HIGHEST QUALITY RECREATION FIELD MIXES IN THE BUSINESS

At Hanson Aggregates we have made our reputation by delivering the right infield topping to meet your baseball field maintenance and construction needs. With more than half-a-century of experience in producing specialty sands, gravels, and clays, we have researched and developed a variety of infield toppings—one of which is just right for you.

The clays from which **besTtop** toppings are produced have been carefully prospected for the properties which distinguish a good infield. With all **besTtop** infield products you can expect freedom from large pebbles and coarse materials; high moisture retention, without balling and tackiness; high water permeability; resistance to dry caking; and, most of all, accurate and constant reproductive fineness, screen distribution, clay type and content, and compressive strength and cleanliness.

besTtop infield products are carefully blended when required, to maintain these properties. They are checked and inspected in our controlled laboratory to assure top quality on every order.

ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF besTtop INFIELD TOPPING NEEDED FOR NEW FIELDS

Recommended coverage for compacted finish thickness of four inches

Field Type	Description	Size	Amount
Regulation Infield	grass infields	95' radius	200 tons*
Regulation Infield	skinned infield	95' radius	275 tons*
Regulation Softball Infield	grass infield	60' radius	110 tons*
Regulation Softball Infield	skinned infield	60' radius	160 tons*
Regulation Little League	grass infield	50' radius	100 tons*
Regulation Little League	skinned infield	50' radius	125 tons*
Girls Softball	grass infield	60' radius	110 tons*
Girls Softball	skinned infield	60' radius	160 tons*
Intermediate Infield	grass infield	85' radius	175 tons*
Intermediate Infield	skinned infield	85' radius	225 tons*

**Approximate*

NOTE:

- Compaction factor is approximately 10%–15% per 1 inch of material
- Figure ½ inch compaction, after rolling with a one-ton roller

PRODUCT DATA

bestTtop sports and specialty mixes are produced from clay blends selected to achieve the design and aesthetic properties of a quality sports arena. These products are selectively mined and blended to produce a homogenous sand and clay distribution without pebbles or other coarse materials.

besTtop offers superior moisture retention without balling and tackiness, excellent drainage, and resistance to dry caking for athletic surfaces that perform as good as they look.

Hanson Aggregates can supply besTtop to customers throughout New Jersey, Eastern and Central Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New York.

	Standard besTtop (BTS)	Better besTtop	Premium besTtop (BT-23)
Bulk Density (compacted at 10% moisture)	116 lbs. cu. ft.	120 lbs. cu. ft.	124 lbs. cu. ft.
Clay Content (AFS)	6–12%	12–20%	18–24%
Water Permeability (minutes per inch through a saturated 2" x 2" rammed specimen)	4.5 min./in.	5.0 min./in.	14.1 min/in.
Moisture retention (2" x 2" compacted specimen 3 hours at 100°F in still air)	54.8%	58.1%	64.5%
Color	Burnt Orange	Burnt Orange	Burnt Orange
Organics (LOI) (Loss on ignition at 1750 F for one hour)	1.8%	2.0%	2.5%

trust earned daily

Lehigh Hanson, Inc. is a leading supplier of construction materials in North America. Our core activities include the production of cement and aggregates and we also produce ready mixed concrete, asphalt and other downstream products. With our innovative approach and extensive network of facilities, our customers trust us to provide the products, service and experience it takes to get the job done. At Lehigh Hanson, that's a trust we earn every day.

Lehigh Hanson, Inc. and our affiliated companies are part of the HeidelbergCement Group, one of the largest building materials manufacturers worldwide. For more information, visit us at **lehighhanson.com**.

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