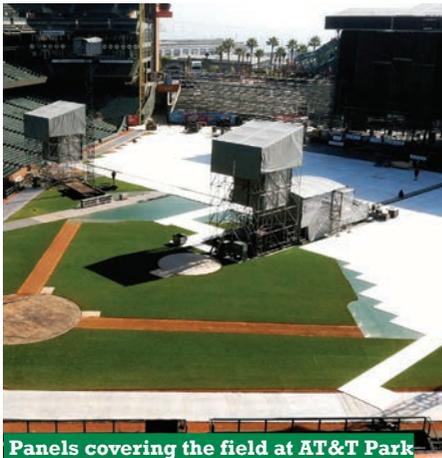
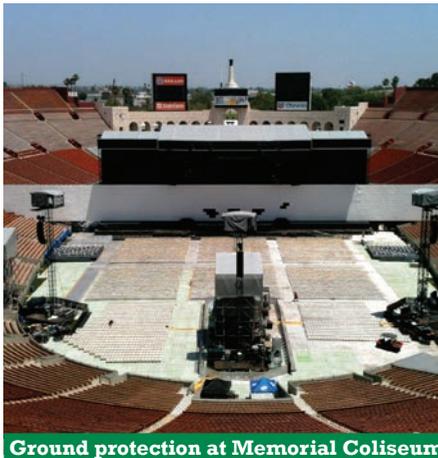


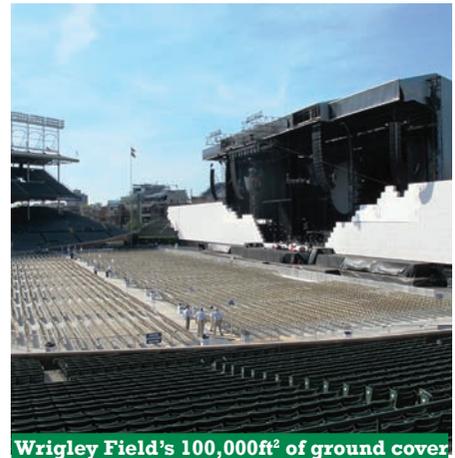
## Roll and rock: Protecting stadium turf when touring shows come to town



Panels covering the field at AT&T Park



Ground protection at Memorial Coliseum



Wrigley Field's 100,000ft<sup>2</sup> of ground cover

At stadia such as Wrigley Field in Chicago and AT&T Park in San Francisco, thousands gather on a summer evening to hear the crack-of-the-bat and see their favourite baseball players, when only few days earlier they would have heard soaring guitar licks and seen a rock-n-roll legend.

When touring shows such as the massive Roger Waters: The Wall Live make stops in sports venues, preserving turf quality is an obvious concern. Skilled groundskeepers spend untold amounts of time cultivating and maintaining precious turf and underground. Building a concert stage requires trucks, trailers, forklifts and cranes – all of which can turn a pristine pitch into a lumpy, dirty mess within just one pass.

### The appropriate system

To protect the turf at the hosting stadia for The Wall Live, eps america provided between 44,000 and 100,000ft<sup>2</sup> of ground cover for three performances – at AT&T Park, the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, and home of the Chicago Cubs, Wrigley Field.

To accommodate a variety of loads and ground characteristics, three types of ground protection were supplied for the shows. For the heftiest loads, eps america brought its signature Arena Panels, a flooring system that is suitable for pedestrian traffic, with optimal weight distribution for heavy stages and equipment. The 7x10ft aluminum panels are relatively light in weight compared with what they can withstand (14 tons per square foot). They bolt together on all sides, eliminating trip hazards but also ensuring that loads are evenly spread over the surface – this is the key to preventing depressions in the turf and damage to the underground.

The shows gave production crews a chance to use LD Panels – a quick solution for temporary access paths and roads. Although parent company eps has used these aluminium panels across Australia and Europe, they are the latest addition to the eps america inventory. Rolls of these 65ft panels are positioned by forklift and installed by hand, ideal for this particular project as they can support the weight of truck loads and cranes without buckling or warping. Strips of LD Panel roadway

can be laid out in any geometry, which is especially useful for the base lines and warning tracks on baseball fields.

In Los Angeles and Chicago, other parts of the field – which were only to be traversed by pedestrian and light equipment – were covered by Terraplas. The lightest of the of the ground protection trio, it is the most turf- and pedestrian-friendly. Terraplas is perforated to allow light and air to nourish the grass below and depending on ground and weather conditions, it can remain in place for days; the panels interlock on all sides and come equipped with anti-slip tread and safety ramps.

### Covered ground

With roots in Europe, eps equipment has covered ground in numerous venues around the world, including the Berlin Olympic Stadium in Germany and Camp Nou in Barcelona, Spain. Since establishing offices in the USA, eps america has provided ground cover to U2's 2011 360° Tour and will take part in country singer and songwriter Kenny Chesney's 2012 Brothers of the Sun Tour. ■

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