

# How to Chalk a Softball Field for Play

**You will need** (all items should be in the shed):

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Bases                        | • String Line            |
| • Rake                         | • Tape Measure           |
| • Chalker Cart and extra chalk | • Hammer and steaks      |
| • Batters Box metal template   | • Pitcher's mound rubber |

1. **Bases** - Place Bases at 60 Ft for all levels 8/10/12/14/16and 18U
2. **Rake** - Rake the area around the plate and smooth out any lumps rocks, or holes. You should do this along the base paths and pitchers circle as well.
3. **Properly Fill the Chalker**
  - **Pro Tip:** Do this near field or shed but not in fair territory in case of spill
4. **Batters Box** – *You'll Need: batter's box metal template 3'x7'/Chalker*
  - Create the batter's box using a batter's box template for outlining the batter's box area. Line up the template along the edge of home plate. Press template into dirt to create outline OR Use a stake to outline shape in dirt. Fastpitch Softball box is 3' x 7'
  - **Pro tip** – Once outline is created stand behind the plate and make sure it is square before you chalk the outline.
5. **Chalking the Foul Lines** – *You'll need: Hammer/Steaks/ string line/Chalker*
  - Place steak at back tip of plate and lop string around the stake.
  - Run string to the outside of the outfield foul line and loop around a second steak.
    - i. This will Land between the Orange and white bases for the 1<sup>st</sup> base foul line
    - ii. This will be to the outside of the base down 3<sup>rd</sup> base foul line
  - Using the string line, set-up the **Chalker along the INSIDE** string line. The Chalker should be placed at the top of the Batter's box to begin the chalk line facing towards the Base. Go past the base all the way to the grass line and stop dispensing chalk.
6. **Placing the pitching Rubber-** *You'll Need: Tape measure/Pitching Rubber/Hammer/Steaks.*

Following the straight line from the back apex of the plate through the center of the infield, lay out tape.

  - 8U – 35ft from back of home plate to front of rubber
  - 10U – 35 ft from back of home plate to front of rubber
  - 12U - 40 ft from back of home plate to front of rubber
  - 14U/16U/18U - 43 ft from back of home plate to front of rubber
  - **Pro Tip:** Before pounding it in, stand back and make sure it is in line with plate and second base.
7. **Chalking Pitching circle** – *You'll Need: Tape measure/Hammer/Steak/String/Chalker.*
  - Using string marked for **8 foot radius** or the tape measure draw a circle in in the dirt with an 8 ft radius around the rubber you just installed.
  - Chalk around the circle
  - **PRO TIP:** If you get off don't worry! Rake it or kick it out and start over!

