

Outdoor Sports Floors

Cleaning and Maintenance Recommendations

Introduction

Synthetic surfaces are made of extremely durable polymers, designed to satisfy all climatic criteria and withstanding constant spike use.

However, there is no such thing as a maintenance-free sports surface and a regular check (once a year) and maintenance of the synthetic surface is necessary to preserve the suitability of the surface for its designed use. This basic maintenance is of vital importance.

Type and scope of the maintenance varies greatly and can also be influenced by air pollution, adjacent surfaces (sand pits, areas of vegetation) which could leave algae, moss and leaf deposits.

The installer's guarantee will usually be conditional on the recommended maintenance requirements being carried out with reasonable diligence.

Maintenance

Maintenance procedures are necessary to preserve the lifetime of the surface and to ensure that:

- the surface is kept clean
- the surface is safe for all users
- in case of a porous system, the free drainage of surface water is maintained throughout the life-span of the surface.
- the facility looks attractive and neat

These objectives are achieved by:

- sweeping leaves and other detritus from the surface
- cleaning the surface to remove contaminants such as grime, algae, moss, sand, etc.
- applying prophylactic treatments of moss-killer and/or algaecide
- periodically removing weed growth from the perimeter kerb lines

Maintenance Equipment

Leaves, pine needles and other detritus should not be allowed to remain on the surface for any length of time. If this does happen, they rapidly rot down, forming a contaminating "skin" on the surface and providing a growth media for algae and moss.

A mechanical leaf-sweeper or vacuum cleaner is ideal for removing herbal wastes and dirt. Restricted areas may have to be cleaned by hand.

The equipment should be well maintained and carefully operated to avoid contamination of, or physical damage to, the surface. Spillage of fuel or lubricating oil will damage the surface.

The pressure loading on the surface as well as the friction and shearing loads have to be kept to a minimum to prevent damage to the surface.

Large pneumatic tyres and soft brushes along with careful manoeuvring of the machinery, is recommended to avoid any damage on the surface.

Supplier of cleaning machines is for example:

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At least once a year it is advisable to clean the surface with high-pressure jetting machine.

There are many varieties of high-pressure washers available for purchase or hire, ranging from a simple hand-held lance through to a tractor-mounted version. The higher the capacity of the machine, the quicker the operation will be completed.

Polymeric surfaces can withstand pressures up to 2000 p.s.i. without suffering damage. Many commercial cleaning machines allow the addition of detergents and fungicides to the water. These chemicals will help prevent moss and algae building up on the surface.

Access to the grass area

Pedestrians and maintenance machinery require regular access to the central area – moving over the athletic tracks.

Therefore, it is recommended that the crossing points of the surface are protected with a rolled out prefabricated rubber mat or similar.

Prevention of damages

To ensure maintaining the surface to a high standard, restrictions should be imposed on the use of the surface.

- in general no vehicles should be permitted to drive on the synthetic surface
- if heavy-duty vehicles are allowed onto the surface (up to 1'500 kg spread over 4 tyres), the load should be spread further by using boards
- no chemicals, oils, fuel or solvents are allowed on the surface, as these will destroy the surface
- no fireworks or cigarettes are allowed on the synthetic surface
- the inner lane should not be used for training

Damages and its renovation

The lifetime of a synthetic surface depends upon its quality, usage, and its level of maintenance. In general, a normal synthetic surface used intensively will last 8 to 10 years before renovation is required.

Renovation / repairs should be carried out periodically to prevent the total damage of the surface, which would necessitate complete renewal.

Renovation / repairs must be carried out by professional and skilled contractors with thorough knowledge of this type of work!

There are different procedures for the renovation of a surface:

- complete renewal by replacing the worn-out synthetic surface with a new material
- partial renewal by replacing the local worn areas
- re-topping or sealing with adequate synthetic materials
- partial re-topping in particular worn-out areas.

Partial or complete line marking may be required.

Note

It should be noted that on permeable surfaces additional sealing or spray coating will reduce water permeability of the surface.

Information contained in this document is of general nature and is given in good faith.

As the state of the surface and the use and application of the various cleaning products, is out of our control, our advice for individual cases, verbal, written or based on tests, does not exempt the applicator from testing the suitability of the cleaning products and their applications