

Advantage RedCourt® use and maintenance guidance

General use

Advantage RedCourt® is an artificial clay playing surface designed specifically for the playing of tennis. It is not intended to be used for any other sport.

For outdoor surfaces the underlying construction is required to be porous and to achieve this the construction includes voids that provide space for surface water to percolate down through the construction and away from the playing surface. Such construction is not as load bearing as impervious hard surfaces, so care needs to be taken to prevent damage due to over-loading. Only mini tractors or two wheel drive quad bikes with wide grass tyres should be taken onto the area for maintenance purposes. Larger vehicles or heavy equipment must never be taken onto the tennis courts. Similarly point loads must be avoided. Seats for example can be used on the court provided the load from the legs is spread by a timber bearer or similar.

Players will need to wear flat soled tennis shoes. Shoes with multi studs, studs, bars or blades must never be worn on the tennis court surface.

Depending upon the weather conditions players may find some tennis shoes more suited to their style of play than others. Extra care will need to be taken if the surface is more slippery than usual, with play suspended if the surface is frozen or covered by snow.

Some drinks can be detrimental to the surface and so no drinks other than water should be allowed on the court surface. Food and chewing gum should also be prohibited on court.

More general guidance on the use and maintenance of all tennis court types, including surround fencing and tennis equipment is available on request, or can be found on SAPCA's website at www.sapca.org.uk

Indoor use

If used indoors weekly watering is required so the sub-base must be suitable.

Summer use:

No special requirements. Watering is not usually necessary.

Winter use: - subject always to taking care not to play on a slippery surface.

Light surface frost- no restrictions on play provided surface is not slippery, but it is recommended to drag the courts the night before so the infill is even, as dragging a frosty surface will not be effective.

Snow- the bulk of the snow can be removed to reduce the thaw time, provided care is taken to avoid damaging the stability mat and dragging off the infill material – best done by hand. Avoid walking on the snow and compacting it, as this will be likely to turn the snow to ice and slow the thawing process.

Ice- avoid playing on a frozen surface in the interests of safety.

Do not attempt to play or take maintenance equipment onto the court if it is frozen or in the process of thawing.

Maintenance

Day to day maintenance by the club/owner

Drag with a drag net or combination brush/net across the surface to maintain regularity of top layer of infill and for grooming for an attractive appearance of playing surface.(Also to keep infill mobile to reduce risk of moss.) Best to do as a routine after each match, but at least once a day.

More rigorous brushing should be carried out using a triangular brush, (pulled behind a mini tractor or similar) best done when the court is dry. Recommended to be done at least once a week.

Sweep line markings to remove infill spread by play or grooming of surface from on top of line. As necessary.

Remove any leaves and branches, litter etc. to prevent accumulation and before it starts to break down or decompose. Leaves are best moved to the edge of the court with a blower (never use a suction / vacuum machine) and then removed manually.

Avoid the risk of melting the stability mat by fire, hot objects or cigarettes and ban glass and chewing gum on the courts. If chewing gum should be found that cannot be lifted easily, use a chewing gum removal spray.

Help keep surface clean and free from soil by keeping entrance mats clean.

Most spillages can be removed with water, as few materials adhere to the stability mat – do not use solvents such as acetone or alcohol based substances.

Replenish the infill if necessary - make up any low areas remaining after bringing any surplus material back from the edges and after drag netting. Check weekly.

Report any accidental damage immediately so that it can be repaired before it gets any worse.

Depending on the location of the court and the climatic conditions moss / algae killer may be required- consult with installer to ensure a suitable material is used.

Annual maintenance by installer or installer recommended specialist

Specialist maintenance is designed to supplement the day to day maintenance and should be carried out at least once a year. It comprises more rigorous brushing of the infill and stability mat and the removal of fine dry dirt from the top layer of the infill.

Maintenance schedule for Advantage RedCourt playing surface

Daily:

- Players to drag brush / net the court after each match and then sweep the lines, ready for the next players.

Weekly:**

- Remove leaves and other debris from the court surface and in particular the perimeter of the court. Use of a sieve and bucket is one simple method to separate leaves and twigs for the infill.
- Check for moss or weed growth and treat if necessary with approved chemicals.
- Whole court area to be drag brushed with the towed triangular brush, bringing surplus material from the perimeter back into the middle of the court to give an even distribution over the whole surface.
- Check and top up level of infill as necessary to maintain correct level of infill
- Drag net and sweep lines to leave courts ready for use.
- Clean mats at entrance gates
- Report any damage to the surface, seams or stability mat to the installer without delay

** The surface will be difficult or even impossible to work on when the surface is very wet, so picking a suitable time to carry out the maintenance each week will be important. If the whole week is too wet, then resume maintenance as soon as conditions improve. Common sense needs to prevail, rather than blind adherence to a timetable.

Annually:

At least once a year specialist maintenance needs to be carried out by the installer (or an installer recommended specialist maintenance contractor). This will involve the use of professional maintenance equipment that provides a deeper penetration of the infill, lifting it from the surface, passing over filters and using a vacuum to remove finer debris, before replacing the infill into the stability mat. This operation prevents over compaction and contamination of the infill that leads to reduced drainage and surface performance.

This annual service will also allow an inspection of the surface and the opportunity to provide any guidance required about court usage and routine maintenance procedures.