



maintenance

Claytex

Maintenance procedures are designed to ensure the following:

- The playing surface is kept clean.
- The playing surface gives consistent performance.
- That surface water drains freely for the life of the court.
- That the Claytex courts look pristine at all times.

These objectives are achieved by:

- Sweeping or brushing to ensure even distribution of rubber granules.
- Regularly removing leaves and other debris from the surface.
- Diligent use of appropriate chemicals to treat weeds and algae.

Re-distributing the rubber granules

Sweep the court daily with an appropriate drag brush. Working on one half of the court at a time, start sweeping from the outer court perimeter, spiralling in towards the centre. This will ensure an even distribution of the rubber particulate. Failure to brush regularly will lead to uneven distribution of the granules and will effect the consistency of ball bounce and accelerate wear thus shortening the useful life of the surface. The whole procedure should take about ten minutes per court.

Keeping the Claytex court clean and free draining

Leaves, tree debris, pine needles and other detritus should not be allowed to remain on the surface for any length of time. Allowing this, results in rapidly decay forming a drainage-inhibiting barrier within the surface, and providing a growing medium for algae moss and weeds.

About once a month special attention should be paid to removing leaves and other organic matter. Although once a month is recommended, a higher frequency is necessary if the court is shaded or subject to pollution. Similarly a little used court, in a domestic garden for instance, will come to no harm if the intervals are longer, provided the location is open and clean.

To make lines clearer they should be brushed with a proprietary line brushing machine or a medium stiff broom. At intervals of between six and twelve months the surface should be thoroughly cleaned using a Carpet Wonder or similar equipment. Playrite are pleased to give advice on the suitability of particular items of equipment and machines.

It cannot be overemphasised that to neglect this simple routine may have serious long-term consequences even if, in the shorter term, the court does not appear to suffer.



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Moss & Algae

In certain situations and seasons algae or moss can become established on the Claytex surface. Since prevention more effective than cure, it is important to treat the court with moss-killer and algaecide at least twice a year. This should be done before and after winter.

Moss is not usually found on that part of the surface that is trafficked by play, and it may not be essential to treat these areas although it is still a wise precaution to do so. Particular attention should however be paid to those perimeters and other areas that are not trafficked, especially if they are shaded by walls or buildings or overhung by trees. Any good proprietary product is satisfactory provided it is not oil-based. The manufacturer's instructions should always be closely followed.

Should moss have become established it should be treated immediately, the application being repeated until the moss can be brushed and cleared away. In the case of very severe infestation, the installer should be consulted. Specialised equipment is available but its use is skilled .

It should be emphasised that moss is only a serious problem if it becomes established. Prophylactic application of moss-killer is an easy way of preventing this. Regular brushing and use of the court should renders moss an even less likely problem.

The first month or two

Immediately after construction there is an initial working-in period during which the final playing surface is created. Regular brushing of the courts allows play from day one with a steady improvement in consistency over the first few weeks.

Stain removal

Most stains can easily be removed with a solution of hot (not boiling) water and a household detergent e.g washing-up liquid . The removal of chewing gum can be effected using a freezing aerosol. Heavy oil marks can be removed with a cloth and methylated spirits.

Weeds

No matter how much care is taken, weeds may occasionally appear on the surface usually as a result of wind blown seeds. Small numbers of weeds can be removed by hand without damaging the surface. Localised areas of salt-set weeds can be treated with domestic weed-killers .

Snow & ice

Snow and ice are not harmful and can be permitted to melt through. It is important not to remove snow or ice mechanically since this will almost certainly give rise to loss of rubber particulate. Metal shovels or scrapers may damage the surface and should not be permitted. Chemical de-icing agents should not be used. Provided that the foothold is adequate the court may be played on when frozen, but heavy use is to be discouraged because the fibre is relatively brittle at low temperatures.



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Footwear and general court care

Make sure the suitable tennis footwear is used.

Your Claytex court should be a 'NO SMOKING' area. A dropped cigarette will melt the fibres down to the surface leaving an unsightly mark. Chewing gum should also be banned.

Maintenance schedule

Daily - at the end of the day's play:

- Brush to redistribute rubber granules.
- Make sure the net is slackened and rolled up in the middle.
- Make sure the gate is shut.

Weekly:

- Attend to any new weeds, moss or algae.

Monthly:

- Brush court paying special attention to leaves and other debris.

Twice a year:

- Check for moss and algae growth, food-stains, shoe-marks etc. and remedy as appropriate.
- Treat with moss-killer/algaecide.

Call Playrite if any aspect is causing significant concern.

NOTE: These are minimum recommendations.

Cleaning, brushing and court inspection can always be done more frequently, if necessary as a precaution.