



maintenance

Matchplay 2

Maintenance recommendations 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 courts appear pristine at all times.

These objectives are achieved by:

- Regularly removing leaves and other debris from the surface.
- Brushing the surface, counteracting any slight sand displacement or compaction will help prevent any contamination forming in the infill and preventing drainage.
- Diligent use of appropriate chemicals to treat weeds and algae.

Keeping Matchplay 2 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.

The recommended frequency brushing and cleaning must depend on the amount of use the court receives and whether its location is open and 'clean'. Once a month is recommended, but a higher frequency is necessary if the court is heavily used, 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.

A stiff broom or mechanical brush is best. The equipment should be well maintained and carefully operated to avoid contamination of or physical damage to the surface. Disturbance of the surface of the sand infill is desirable to keep carpet porosity at a maximum.

Playrite are pleased to give advice on the suitability of particular equipment. It cannot be overemphasised that to neglect the cleaning of this kind of court may have serious long-term consequences even if, in the shorter term, the court does not appear to suffer.

Moss & Algae

In certain situations and in some seasons algae or moss can become established on the Matchplay 2 surface. Since prevention more effective than cure, it is important to treat the court with moss-killer and algacide 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.



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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 cleaning equipment is available but its use is a skilled process.

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 renders moss an even less likely problem.

The first month or so

Immediately after construction there is an initial working-in period during which the final playing surface is created. Initially the court surface will be left rather sandy but full penetration of the sand dressing into the polypropylene fibres and its subsequent compaction into a uniform playing surface occurs naturally with normal processes, especially rainfall and initial play, this usually takes two to three months.

During construction every effort is made to ensure even distribution of sand over the whole court. Experience, however, shows that increasing the frequency of brushing in the early weeks of use is beneficial in creating the final playing surface.

If areas are found which are short of sand it should be possible to brush the sand into them from adjacent areas with surplus sand, provided this is done within the first few weeks. If the under-sanded areas are extensive or do not respond to this treatment, please contact Playrite.

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 or spores. Small numbers of weeds can be removed by hand without damaging the surface. Localised areas of self-set weeds can be treated with domestic weed-killers without causing damage to the surface of the court. Oil-based weed-killers must not be used.

Snow & ice

Snow and ice are not harmful and can be permitted to melt through. If it is important to remove the snow to enable play to start sooner than would otherwise be the case, brushes or rubber edged scrapers may be used. 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.

If heavy rain falls immediately after a very cold spell, the court may become flooded for a few hours. This is because the sand beneath is still frozen. Do not worry; the ice will soon melt and the surface will then drain normally.



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Footwear & general court care

Make sure that suitable tennis footwear is used. If the court is used occasionally for other sports, a multi-studded boot with a stud length of $\frac{1}{4}$ " will be satisfactory. Metal studs or blades must not be used.

Your Matchplay 2 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:

- Make sure the net is slackened and rolled up in the middle.
- Make sure the gate is shut.

Weekly:

- Clear leaves and rubbish from the court.
- Remove any new weeds, moss or algae.

Monthly:

- Brush court to even the distribution of the sand infill.
- Check sand infill levels.

Twice a year:

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

Call Playrite if any aspect of the courts characteristics 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.