



February 2016

## Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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### Got a Track or a Gallop? Check out AmeriTrack!



This complete race track system is specifically designed and formulated for horse safety and injury reduction. Ameritrack is engineered with a free-draining base and all-weather cushion. It incorporates a vertical drainage system which eliminates movement of the cushion to the rail and results in a consistent, no bias track. The characteristics of the surface are minimal kick-back, low concussion and optimal viscoelastic rebound. With Ameritrack, watering for dust control, leveling and re-establishing the grade of the slope are not required.

Unlike many coated surfaces, Ameritrack is manufactured without wax. Ameritrack remains stable in extreme temperature conditions. During high temperatures, it will not melt or become soft, and during extreme cold, it will remain soft and pliable, rather than become hard and brittle.

#### Characteristics of Ameritrack:

- Dust-free and non-tacky
- Consistent going
- Manufactured from premium raw materials
- Engineered for thoroughbred training and racetrack
- Reduced concussion with viscoelastic rebound
- Freeze-resistant and stable over a wide temperature range



**Product HighLights**

- Dust free and non-toxic
- Consistent going
- Manufactured from premium raw materials
- Engineered for thoroughbred training and racetrack
- Reduced concussion with viscoelastic rebound
- Freeze resistant and stable over a wide temperature range

*To know more, or to request a sample and quotes, please write in to us.*

## Coming soon - The New Attwood Coffee Table Book



Over the winter, we have worked really hard to prepare this lovely photo book and discussion guide to educate people about the virtues of good footing, as well as help us reach out to new customers in new markets.

As we release this newsletter, we are delighted to announce that the book is now complete and has gone for final proofs and printing. We are hoping to have it with us by the end of February, and subsequently will make sure it is available to all, either in print or online.

Watch this space for more information on when the book will be out!

## Windurra Event Horses relocate to Aiken, SC for Winter Season



At the start of the month, Boyd and Silva Martin transported most of their horses down to the beautiful Stable View farm in Aiken, South Carolina. They did leave all of the two and three-year-olds at home, along with one or two injured horses that need a bit more time for rehabilitation.

[Stable View](#) is the premier eventing facility in Aiken, also with Attwood footing in their arenas. Stable View is the ideal location for Windurra's winter base, to give their horses and riders the best possible facilities to train at peak performance.

Attwood has had a long association with Windurra and StableView, having installed our highly acclaimed Pinnacle and EuroTex footings in all their arenas and tracks.

You can follow Boyd Martin's blog [here](#). To watch a video of their facilities in Aiken, head over to [YouTube](#).

More YouTube videos on [Our Channel](#)

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## Footing Facts

### 2015 Highlights

This month we (rather belatedly) look back at Footing Facts from 2015, and draw out what we think are some important points.

We started off the year with a three part focus on additives. We looked at the role of additives in imparting shock absorbency properties to sand, and improving cohesion/shear strength. However we warned about some additives which on their own do not help to tie together the footing, and are merely there as a cheap bulking agent. Rubber pieces are in this category, and if the correct fibres are not included, a very loose and deep-riding surface will result.

We then went on to point out that the level of fibres in many additive products is important, and can vary greatly between suppliers. We've reproduced the caption from the March Footing Facts which shows a line-up of 'fibrous' additives **of equal weight**.



Since these additives are purchased by weight, there is a significant difference in the amount of fibre your money buys, so beware!

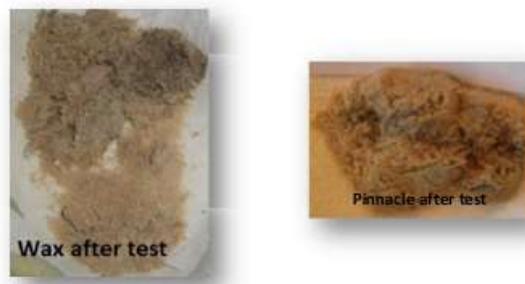
A final point from this series relates to health, safety and environmental factors associated with additives. We pointed out the content of potentially carcinogenic oils in recycled rubber pieces from automobile tyres, and dangerous plasticisers in pieces of electrical wire sleeving, both of which have been used in equestrian surface additive products.

We then covered the wear life of equestrian surfaces in a three month mini-series. In the first two of these we covered the wear mechanism in coated, then uncoated surfaces, and in the third issue we explained how worn out surfaces can be repaired or rejuvenated.

In the case of uncoated surfaces we described a transient problem where the surface dries out and the additive components separate, often leaving most of the additive on the top of the surface. The binding in uncoated surfaces is mainly provided by the presence of water, through hydrogen bonding, and once the water content falls to a critical level, the additive will separate, and all cohesion will be lost. We used the analogy of wet sand at the shoreline compared to dry sand in the dunes to illustrate the point.

We also described permanent wear in uncoated surfaces relating to the breaking down of sand grains into finer and finer particles. This can cause dust and drainage problems. We pointed out that cheaper, lower grade sands tend to be softer and so wear in this way much more quickly than those of a high silica content.

Coated surfaces tend to degrade by a different mechanism, whereby the coating is gradually abraded off, leaving no binding mechanism for the footing. We explained that this can be exacerbated by the presence of water. We showed photographs of surfaces worn by this mechanism from our unique laboratory test, and these are reproduced below.



Note how the waxed surface has virtually disintegrated, whilst Attwood's Pinnacle polymer-coated surface remains completely intact. This is a situation we find time and again in the field.

In the final part to this series we explored what can be done, if anything to rejuvenate a worn or tired surface. A worn out uncoated surface could be riding too deep, or it could be very hard. We explained the cause of these characteristics are different, therefore the solutions are different.

In the case of tired coated surfaces, usually the problem is one of riding too deep, and this is because the coating has worn off. We pointed out that Attwood's polymer coatings in Pinnacle and TerraNova products binds to the sand and additives far more strongly than wax so can last five times longer.

In October we described the physical testing of footings, and started by pointing out that most footing manufacturers and suppliers do not use objective and scientific tests on their products. We went further to explain that only recently have the academics and FEI recognised the importance of testing footing properties, and are beginning to come up with a set of 'approved FEI footing properties'. Attwood has always recognised this importance and because of our unrivalled scientific knowledge of equestrian surfaces have developed many of our own tests, most of which are so useful that we do not share them externally.

In the penultimate Footing Facts of 2015 we covered the question of drainage. We discussed the various types and made the most important point that one size does not fit all. The type of drainage system you should have will depend on your climate, and the type of footing you have. For instance if it is an uncoated surface then you'll be relying on water to bind the surface so too much drainage will mean your footing dries out too quickly and you'll be constantly watering it.

We closed the year with a related topic on drying out of footing. This was a quite technical issue where we discussed simple evaporation, different types of water within a footing, and the effect of sand grain size on drying rate.

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## Well Done, Bruce Springsteen! Raises USD 600,000 for US Equestrian Team to Rio



Bruce Springsteen was *Working on a Dream* to get the USA's equestrian team to Rio on Friday night, with a surprise performance at an Olympic benefit, and a generous donation of concert tickets with extras fetching \$600,000.

What started as a signed guitar by "The Boss" at *Rockin' Rio*, the US Equestrian Team Foundation's Olympic and Paralympic Games benefit, quickly escalated to 10 VIP tickets with sound check and backstage meet-and-greet passes to one of Springsteen and the E Street Band's River Tour concerts.

The benefit really started to rock when Springsteen took to the stage to encourage the bidders with one of his iconic performances. The hotly contested item eventually sold to two lucky bidders for \$300,000 each.

You can follow the entire story on the [HorseTalk website!](#)

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## Our Social Media Channels



Continue to engage with us on the social media platform of your choice, [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#). We love to hear from you!

You can also contact us at [info@equestriansurfaces.com](mailto:info@equestriansurfaces.com), [info@attwood.in](mailto:info@attwood.in) and [enquiries@aesurfaces.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@aesurfaces.co.uk).

Download our previous newsletters from our [archives](#).

*Attwood Equestrian Surfaces provides meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit both the horse and the rider*

