



March 2018

Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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The Attwood Advantage *What we stand for*



We're not like other equestrian surface suppliers and installers. Our background is in science and technology, and this has enabled us to create and develop carefully balanced products that perform consistently in any climate. We've invested in continuous research and development to provide riding surfaces with the best possible physical properties. We have developed scientific tests that characterise these properties so we can use objective assessment, rather than rely on 'feel' like many of our competitors. We also apply our technical skills to all aspects of the installation of arenas and tracks. Furthermore we collaborate with the world's leading independent equestrian surface academics to ensure we remain at the forefront of both technical and governance developments.

But we're not just scientists. We understand the needs of each discipline, and we ensure our surfaces benefit both the horse and rider. Over 25 years in the business has taught us this. Over 500 installations later including dressage and jumping arenas, training pens and gallops, and an impressive client list that includes many internationally recognised competitors and trainers, we believe we have the best footing solutions available today.

We're not going to stop here though. Our aim is to bring our high tech solutions to the equestrian and racing world, not just in the United States, but across the globe. For too long, poor quality footing and installation have dogged the riding world. After the promise of safer synthetic racing surfaces in the United States, poor quality, badly developed wax-based footing completely devastated the name of synthetic surfaces. We think there is a way back, and it doesn't involve wax!



Similarly, we constantly come across equestrian customers who are looking to replace poor quality and badly installed arena footing. The common factor in all this is that the suppliers and installers simply don't have the technical expertise to develop, specify and install what is a complicated, highly scientific product and service. All too often they are either ex-riders or trainers, or construction industry employees who do not have the necessary technical training.



We believe we have the best riding surface solutions available today, supplied and installed by the best riding surfaces company.

To know more, or to request a sample and quotes, please visit [our website](#) or write in to us.

Our Partnership with Kat Fuqua



We are very pleased to be partnering with Kat Fuqua, 2017 USEF Leading Owner Pony Hunter and 2017 USHJA Leading Pony Derby Rider

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That girl is on fire.

Update from Silva Martin



"I have some catching up to do on the blog, so I will talk about three shows here, beginning with Dressage at the Park, held at Bruce's Field here in Aiken.

I'm so excited that I have two newly minted FEI horses, Hannah Lu W, owned by Joan Fenton White and Sara Reese, and my own Jada W. Both of these homebred mares just recently moved up to the FEI levels, competing in the PSG here in Aiken, South Carolina.

Jada won the PSG; Hannah was a little hot in the canter and made some green mistakes but still placed second, which was awesome.



As a side note, I am putting together a small group of owners to keep Jada. Tommy Turner, who is Christine Turner's daughter, has joined me as a part owner and I'm so excited to be able to keep this wonderful mare! We are still looking for a few people to join our partnership, so if you are interested please get in touch with me."

You can follow Silva's blog [here](#)

Footing Facts: March 2018

Footing Maintenance - Part 2

We continue our mini-series on Footing Maintenance this month with a look at longer term maintenance issues. Last month we discussed routine maintenance activities when your footing is in new, or reasonably new condition. This month we look at issues arising when your footing is a little older and struggling to give you that riding performance you've been used to.

Depending on the type of surface, longer term maintenance issues can be quite different. In the case of waxed surfaces some quite competing problems can exist. For instance we mentioned last month that a periodic deep harrow may be necessary when the lower depth of the surface has compacted to a very hard, unforgiving layer. This often happens as a result of the wax melting during the summer months and migrating downwards under gravity. This then sets hard, even during reasonably warm weather since the lower levels are not penetrated by warming from the sun. The remedy for this is a careful deep harrow to rip through the lower layer and bring that material up to the surface. Breaking up of this layer can be very difficult if it has been left undisturbed for many years, so it is probably best to conduct a deep harrow once a year. We should warn however that a deep harrow takes skill - if the harrow goes too deep then the fabric layer may be ripped and brought up to the surface, necessitating a repair operation which will be costly, or if a stone-dust base is used then this can be disturbed so that stone-dust discolouration occurs, or worst still, the fines from the stone dust eliminates the tackiness in the wax coating and the footing loses cohesion in that area. Of course if you have an Attwood Pinnacle or TerraNova surface then you won't have to worry about this problem - the polymer coating on our footings does not melt so will not migrate downwards. However it is still

advisable to conduct a deep harrow every 3 - 5 years as the lower levels will become compacted over time. However the material will be much easier to break up because the correct level of coating will still be in place.



A completely different issue with wax surfaces is their rapid loss of coating, particularly in outdoor arenas. This is because the wax coating is hydrophobic (water hating) and does not like to adhere to hydrophilic (water liking) sand particles. So riding on a wet wax surface will quite easily rub off the wax coating, leaving the surface un-cohesive and riding deep. We find that wax footing suppliers then tell their customers to use a little water to improve the cohesion and reduce the deep riding....you can see where this is headed....this exacerbates the wax 'stripping' problem and a vicious circle results. Harrowing whilst the surface is wet further accelerates the stripping process so this should definitely be avoided. But if you are having to water your wax surface just to be able to ride, when are you going to be able to harrow it dry? Again, this problem is largely reduced with Attwood's polymer-coated surface. Our polymer coating is designed to chemically bind to the sand so it is much harder to rub off (see photos from our in-house 'stripping' test) and our customers never have to water to maintain rideability. However we do recommend not harrowing whilst the footing is wet, if at all possible - no footing is indestructible!

If your surface is uncoated then you are relying on moisture and textiles to provide the cohesion. Watering is obviously a routine maintenance issue and you may use a water truck, fixed sprinklers, or maybe have one of the newer underfoot watering systems. If your arena has been designed by a knowledgeable contractor then for an outdoor situation your surface should drain under even quite severe rainfall. However after time that drainage seems to be working less well and your arena often becomes flooded. This can arise if a poor quality, low silica content sand has been used. In this case the softer sand grains break apart under the forces applied by the hooves and maintenance equipment, which leads to finer particles, which settles into the voids between the larger grains and essentially block the draining action of the surface.

Another longer term issue can be that the textile in your surface separates from the sand and rises to the top. This happens particularly if the footing has been allowed to dry out. In this case a remedial harrowing operation may be able to re-mix the textile, or a more vigorous rotavating operation may be necessary.

FEI boost for showjumping in the Middle East



Show jumping in the region has received a major boost following a new ruling by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI), the sport's governing body, to increase the number of World Cup qualifying places for riders representing the Arab League.

FEI members unanimously voted during the annual FEI congress hosted by the Sharjah Equestrian and Racing Club to split the Arab League into two regions — paving the way for an additional two qualifying spots.

Previously three spots were available for nations from the entire Arab League, which includes countries spread across the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) region.

Read more [here](#).

Our Social Media Channels



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You can also contact us at info@equestriansurfaces.com, info@attwood.in and 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

