Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

Corporate Office and USA | Asia-Pacific and Middle East | UK and Europe

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"The Show Must Go On"

It was a great sight, seeing all these fabulous horse and rider combinations competing again. It was our own #rolexnotrolex. Thank you to Great Meadow International, Jackie Mars, and all the sponsors who said; "the show must go on".

#whatmakesgoodfootinggood #safety #performance #innovation

Client Reviews

"When I work a horse on an Attwood surface I know I can ask more. The surface is consistent and gives just the right amount of support. I trust Attwood Equestrian Surfaces completely".

#whatmakesgoodfootinggood #performance #safety #innovation #dressage #alliebrock #sanddancing #centerline #tipofthehat #warmblood #usef

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#MondayMatDay !

— When challenged with building an arena where the sub-base cannot be excavated, ArenaMats are a perfect solution. Examples include concrete, tennis courts, and temporary arenas.

ArenaMats are the ideal foundation for arena footing.
They improve shock absorption, increasing comfort for both horse and rider.
For outdoor applications, ArenaMats provide the perfect balance between drainage and water retention.

New Attwood Surface at Virginia Center

Looking good on the new Attwood surface at the Virginia Horse Center Foundation. We've love hearing from our hunter jumper friends down in the main arena. #whatmakesgoodfootinggood #safety #performance #innovation #horseshowlife #equsetrianstyle #hunters #babygreen #equitation

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Footing Facts - October 2020

Coated Footing for Hot Climates

Over the years in Footing Facts, we have on several occasions explored several aspects of coated, dust-free footings, from their longevity, to their performance in different climates. This month we want to talk again about coated footings and their response to different temperatures. As the Northern hemisphere begins to leave summer and the hotter weather behind, there are still parts of the world where high temperatures can cause problems for coated synthetic riding surfaces.
Coated surfaces are sold on the basis that they are low maintenance compared to traditional sand surfaces. Cheapest among coated surfaces are wax-based products, and this apparent economical solution leads to quite a high level of popularity. And wax surfaces cam perform reasonably well in normal temperate climates in the spring summer and autumn months, but problems can be encountered in winter with hardness, and at the other end of the scale in hotter climates. Nowhere else in the world do coated surfaces get stretched to their limit (and beyond in many cases) than in the Middle East.

This part of the world is generally characterised by hot, dry weather. Winters are cooler and can give rise to some rain, but no rain in the months of June, July, August and September. During the summer, average temperatures are around 40°C.

The heat and sun intensity, and lack of rain present special difficulties for riding surfaces. Because water is scarce across the region, traditional watered arenas are not always an easy choice. Over-spraying is an inefficient way of watering an arena, so the newer underground watering systems are proving popular. These systems claim to use considerably less water since none is lost to over-spraying and 'in-flight' evaporation. Of course water still evaporates from the surface so in this hot, dry region water usage is still high.

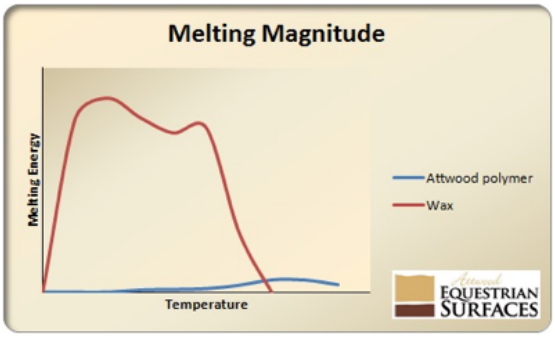
This has made coated surfaces particularly attractive, although their success has been mixed. This has been primarily due to the poor performance of wax-based footings. Equestrian waxes are mixtures of soft crystalline solids, that begin to melt at temperatures typical of surface temperatures in the Middle East.

Consequently there is a huge change in properties as the wax starts to turn to liquid (think of a melting candle).

The effect is dramatic as the wax changes from a soft solid (rather like Vaseline) to a liquid. This in turn significantly changes the feeling and 'going' of the surface.

Now to Attwood's polymer-coated surfaces, Pinnacle and TerraNova. The principle is the same – an adhesive coating to bind the sand and textiles together. But in our case, the polymers used are very strong and stretchy, so hold everything together really well. The serious problem of melting does not occur with our polymer coatings. The polymers we use do not melt like wax.

The graph shows a Differential Scanning Calorimetry trace of a commercial wax, and Attwood's Pinnacle polymer binder.



This technique measures the amount of change taking place during heating, with a huge change when the wax melts (red line) compared to the small

change when Pinnacle binder is heated (blue line).

This means that Attwood's polymer-coated surfaces change very little when the temperature changes.

But you may be wondering, if wax does not have the necessary properties, why is it used at all? Well the answer to that is that it is cheap. This is because it is a by-product of oil refining, being part of the thick bituminous component that is left after all the useful petroleum fuel products are removed.

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Contrast this to properly engineered polymer binders used by Attwood that are synthesised specifically for their properties. And customers in the Middle East are beginning to recognise the superior performance of Attwood's coated surfaces which are perfectly suited to the climate there.

Product Profile - 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.

Unlike most 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.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

- **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**

Synthetic surfaces in the horse racing industry have received mixed press over the years. In 2006, motivated by evidence that synthetic surfaces resulted in a decrease in fatalities, the California Horseracing Board decreed that all racetracks in the state should switch to synthetics. Nine years later, all except one have been axed. Add to that several others throughout the United States, and the prestigious Meydan racetrack in Dubai, all being removed, tells a devastating story. All of these racetracks were installed with wax-based surfaces, and their problems have done untold damage to the reputation of synthetic surfaces. It is widely accepted that the wax coating could not cope with the temperature variations throughout a day, and throughout the year, riding hard and fast in the colder parts of the day/year, and soft and slow in the hotter parts of the day/year.

Maintenance was therefore a real headache for the racetrack managers, and inconsistent times were a problem for riders and trainers, and racegoers. Had the racetrack owners turned to Attwood back in 2006, they would have encountered our polymer-coated synthetic surface, which is proven scientifically to vary considerably less than wax surfaces. This is because the waxes used for equestrian surfaces are crystalline solids, and as such melt when they get warm (think of candle wax). This melting can occur at normal outside temperatures, turning from solid in the morning, to liquid in the afternoon sun. This change has a devastating effect on the properties of the footing, hence on the 'going' of a racetrack. Attwood's Ameritrack polymer coating is not crystalline and does not melt in this way, so footing properties are maintained constant throughout the day, and throughout the seasons.

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Attwood Equestrian Surfaces provides meticulously engineered surfaces that benefit

both the horse and the rider.

Attwood EQUESTRIAN SURFACES