



January 2018

Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

[Corporate Office and USA](#) | [Asia-Pacific and Middle East](#) | [UK and Europe](#)

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#)

**Attwood wishes everyone a very
Happy New Year
and a chance to get featured!**



This New Years', tell us what's one of the most important thing you use at your barn everyday? Boyd Martin says it's his footing. Create your top ten list for 2018 and we will pick the most inventive to be featured on our page. **Ready, set, go!**



Photo credit: Lisa Thomas, Mid-Atlantic Media.

We hope the new year brings peace, happiness and good health for you all and your horses! Cheers to a wonderful 2018!

You know who to contact for new arenas in 2018!

Toyon Farm in the beautiful Napa Valley, home to [Susan Ighani](#) and [Daniel Ighani](#). Here is Susan riding her own Liaison in the Pinnacle arena, a picture of balance and harmony.

For the serious rider, footing is one of the most important things you use every day.

Looking to install an arena in 2018? Call Attwood Equestrian Surfaces for a complete quote : 888-461-7788

You can also drop us an enquiry on info@equestriansurfaces.com or [click here](#).



Attwood Product - 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

Focus on Ameritrack



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.



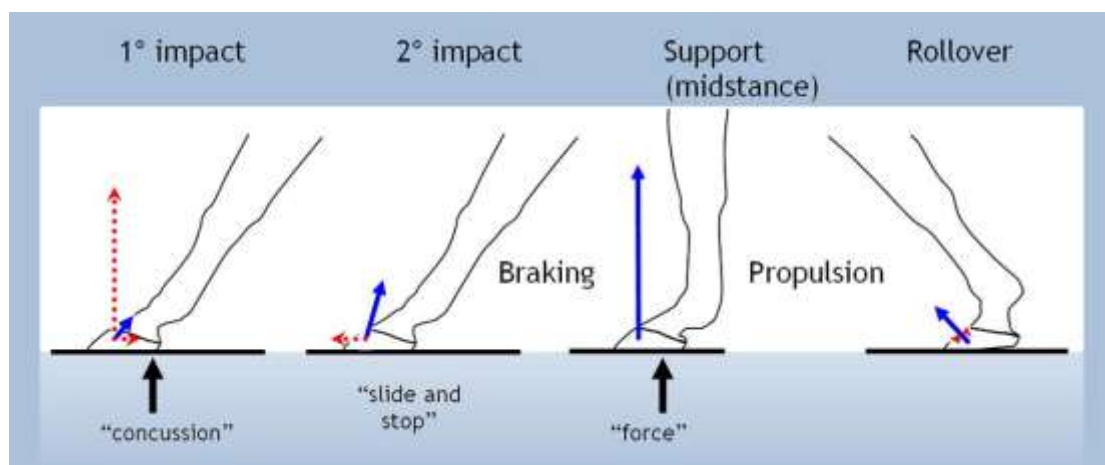
Maintenance was therefore a real headache for the racetrack managers, and inconsistent times were a problem for riders and trainers, and racegoers. Had the racetrack owners turned to Attwood back in 2006, they would have encountered our polymer-coated synthetic surface, which is proven scientifically 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.

To know more about our products, please visit our [website](#).

Footing Facts January 2018

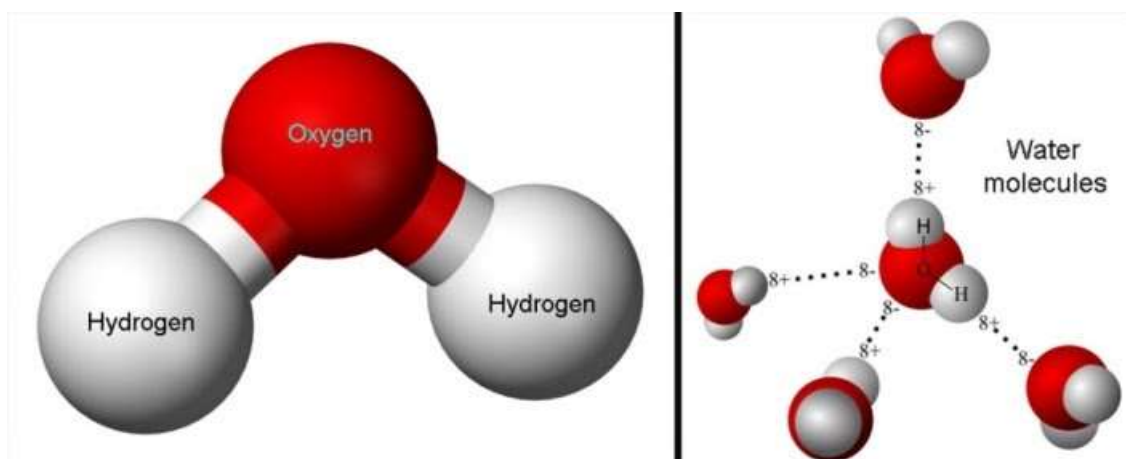
Footing Facts 2017 Review

As is tradition at this time of the year, we look back at what has been covered in Footing Facts over 2017. In February we took a look at some of the research and development work on equestrian sport that is going on both within Attwood, and around the world in academic institutions. At Attwood we pride ourselves on our scientific expertise. Within the company we have materials science and engineering graduates working to bring you the most advanced equestrian surface solutions available today.



We also pointed to the general lack of good scientific understanding of the role of the surface on the performance and well-being of the horse. This led to some useful research work into surfaces, sponsored by the F.E.I. (Fédération Equestre Internationale), which culminated in the publication of a 'white paper' in 2014. Whilst not the complete story, this is a good starting point for anyone wishing to understand in more detail the importance of a riding surface.

The next Footing Facts was a quite highly scientific piece on the importance of water in an uncoated sand surface. In order to appreciate the importance of water and its role in helping to hold the structure together, we delved into the world of chemical bonding. Water, or H₂O, has an uncanny ability to bond to itself through a special mechanism known as *hydrogen bonding*. We don't notice this under normal circumstances - water is the clear flowing liquid we know well. But if hydrogen bonding was not present holding water molecules together, water would be a gas at normal temperatures so we would live in a world of steam, and have to breathe water vapour rather than air! This hydrogen bonding is important for sand riding surfaces because it allows water to bind quite strongly to sand grains, and adjacent sand grains 'coated' in water to bind to each other, thus giving moist sand its cohesive properties - just compare dry sand in dunes at the sea-side with wet sand on the shore-line.



In the May edition we explored the increasingly popular use of base mats, upon which to install the riding surface. We pointed out that mats may at first glance seem an unnecessary expense but can actually pay for themselves because less material can be used both in the base underneath, and the surface on top. It has been shown that a riding surface, depending on its composition fails to completely absorb all the concussion from the falling hoof, so the base will absorb the remainder of this. If the base is very hard (which it usually is) then there can be some serious shock through the limbs. The use of a base mat can reduce this because the plastic mat can effectively damp the remaining concussion that the surface fails to relieve.

The following month we discussed sub-surface irrigation systems, another fairly new technology gaining increasing popularity. The first advantage we pointed out is the efficiency of such systems in terms of water usage, reckoned to be around 30% improvement. We also pointed out that watering can be more even, particularly compared to overhead spraying systems.

In July prompted by a continuing stream of customers confusing our polymer-coated surfaces with wax surfaces and the problems these have experienced, we focussed on our Pinnacle, TerraNova, and Ameritrak polymer-coated surfaces. We highlighted the problems wax-coated surfaces can experience when the temperature changes, often becoming loose and unsupportive in the summer months, and hard in the winter. We contrasted this with Attwood's polymer-coated surfaces that do not suffer in this way, maintaining the same level of support and traction throughout the temperature range.

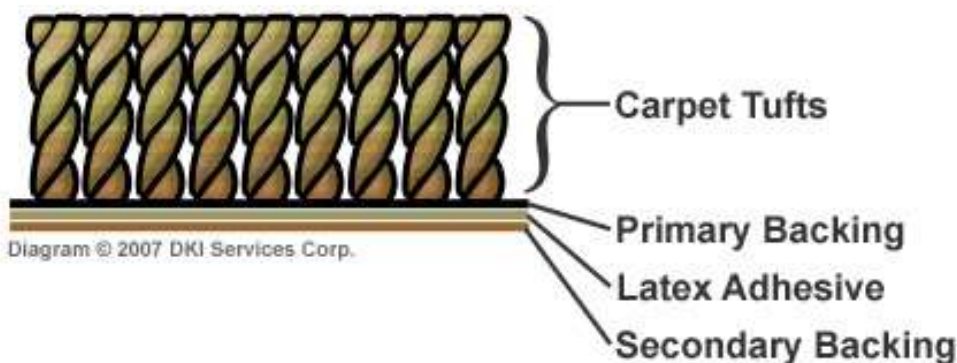


The advertisement features the 'TerraNova' logo in a large, bold, brown font, with the tagline 'High Performance, Affordable Footing for Equestrian Athletes' underneath. To the left is a pile of light brown sand. To the right is the 'Attwood EQUESTRIAN SURFACES' logo, which includes a stylized 'Attwood' in script and 'EQUESTRIAN SURFACES' in block letters, with the website 'www.equestriansurfaces.com' below it.

We followed this up in August with a look at ageing in wax footings, drawing attention to problems being experienced at Pakenham racetrack in Australia, where jockeys were complaining of significant kickback on a waxed surface that was only two years old. The track CEO blamed the lack of rainfall and promised to fix the problem with an improved

irrigation strategy. We pointed out that this is a wax surface so should not need water to hold it together, and the fact that the surface was only two years old!

Following a fall/Autumn break, we picked up on additives/textiles in December. These materials are formulated with sand to introduce air space into footing which provides some shock absorbency, but also, where fibers are used, to knit the structure together to provide traction.



As such, a perfect combination is felt pieces with discrete fibers, such as Attwood's Eurotex additive. We warned customers about those suppliers offering carpet scrap, which contains mostly carpet backing which is simply a cheap filler, but also carpet fibres which are designed to remain within a twisted yarn in a carpet, rather than become separate which is what is required for an equestrian riding surface.

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, 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

