



[January 2017](#)

Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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A Day at Attwood *Videos and much more*



As horsemen, we love to talk about the footing. Good, bad, but never indifferent. Good footing can actually increase the longevity of a horse's career. Bad footing can send you straight to the vet. Recently the FEI published a white paper discussing the science behind good footing. The same scientific approach that has been applied to Attwood's premium blends for almost twenty years.

From the hoof's first impact to the rollover, there is a concussive element to all footing. Mostly, the horse's soft tissue will absorb much of it, but good footing can minimize the effects. As the horse's hoof impacts the surface, there is movement forward. Not enough grip and the horse will slip. Too much grip and the horse cannot move freely. It takes a master craftsman who understands the science and a horse's biomechanics to make truly good footing. That's why America's leading riders choose Attwood.

Have you checked out our new look website? We have a bunch of new exciting videos out there!

Watch Nick Attwood, the man himself, tell us about the science of good footing! Grace Long, a professional Grand Prix rider, telling us that her Attwood surface "is the most important thing I use everyday" at the farm and David O'Connor on how he believes in Attwood's footing!

Also, Boyd and Silva Martin thank us for an amazing 2016 with Attwood Equestrian Surfaces!
Watch these videos on our website column "[A Day With Attwood](#)"

Head over to our [YouTube channel](#) to view and watch our entire video catalogue. We have a few more exciting videos coming up, so keep watching this space for more!

Attwood's Products - Pinnacle

This ultimate riding surface combines the latest in technology and our 20 years of equestrian arena footing experience. Pinnacle is engineered with premium materials to bring you the optimum in shear strength, minimal concussion and maximum viscoelastic rebound.

Pinnacle surfaces are formulated from high quality silica sand and fibres, and coated with viscoelastic polymer, to bring you the optimum in shear strength, shock absorption and maximum viscoelastic rebound. Pinnacle is laser graded to a uniform depth of four inches over a carefully graded compacted base.

- Indoor and outdoor use
- Requires no watering
- Dust free
- Industry leading concussion reduction and rebound
- More stable than wax to extremes of temperature
- Customisable to suite jumping, dressage, racing.

Product HighLights

- High quality silica sand and fibers coated with proprietary polymer.
- All premium (not recycled or re-used) materials so composition tightly controlled & known.
- All materials completely safe. Does not contain tyre scrap or PVC wire insulation which have known toxicological issues
- Properties do not change depending on weather
- Dust-free & does not require watering
- Coloured green version available



Focus on Pinnacle

- The polymer coating on Pinnacle components gives the footing viscoelastic properties. This is a technical term scientists ascribe to materials that 'give' or move with some resistance in response to a force (visco), but recover or are stretchy somewhat after the force is removed (elastic). Polymers tend to be viscoelastic, whilst simple solids are not. How this relates to footing is important.
- Attwood's footings coated in a viscoelastic polymer resist deformation, providing cushioning, but recover after the force is removed, providing rebound. Our competitors' coated surfaces are coated in wax. Wax is not a viscoelastic solid so does not provide the level of cushioning and rebound that Attwood's polymer coating

does. Such surfaces feel 'dead' in comparison. What's more, we believe Pinnacle is kinder to limbs, because of the lower impact forces as a result of the cushioning effect.

To check out Attwood's other products, head to [our website](#).

Ring in the New Year

About this time every year, gym memberships go up, there is a sudden decline in the sale of chocolate and your Instafaceboksnapchattwitter is showing you exactly how to get fitter, slimmer, faster, and of course, jump higher. #thestruggleisreal #worthygoals

In the competition barns across the country, in fact around the world, there is a similar patois coming from the ranks. This is the year I am going to make the team, make the training list, go novice, win at third level. This is the year I will have a 1.40-meter horse. Or as simple as, this is the year my horse will be sound and happy in his work.

If you have been following the Attwood videos posted on our website and YouTube channel, you might have seen Grace Long, a professional Grand Prix rider, telling us that her Attwood surface "is the most important thing I use everyday" at the farm. Her answer nailed it on the head for us. When you think the things you use every day to achieve a more balanced supple horse, do you think about your footing? Clearly, more and more riders are.

This past year we have been chronicling our interviews with some of the best equestrians in the United States. We asked "what makes good footing good?" and they answered. Footing that increases the longevity of my horse's career. Footing that makes them feel comfortable and confident. Footing made by Attwood.

Ah shucks guys.

But the commitment to the riders and the horses does not end there. 2017 is coming down the centerline. Watch this space for the announcement of the next version of our premium footing. Seriously, you need to come ride on this footing.

And what goes well with footing? Watering of course. Plans are in the works for a new watering system that's going to make you shake your head and say, "why didn't I think of that"?

Thank you one and all for your generous support of the Attwood products. We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

To read more on our products, check out [our website](#).

[Footing Facts Jan 2017](#)

Footing Facts 2016 Highlights

This month we look back at Footing Facts from 2016. (Can it really be 12 months since we reviewed 2015 Footing Facts?!)



In previous Footing Facts we have explored the technical deficiencies of wax surfaces, most significantly the poor thermal consistency of wax, leading to huge changes in 'going' throughout the day and from season to season, a trait not suffered by Attwood's polymer coated surface, Pinnacle.

In the May edition we chose fibers as our topic, particularly because we find many in the industry incorrectly ascribe the term to additives that strictly aren't fibers. For instance many term carpet scrap "fibers", when in fact the carpet pieces contain mostly backing which can be made of all kinds of materials that don't add to the performance of the surface. Furthermore the fibres are stuck to the backing so contribute very little to shear strength.



In July we began a mini-series on equestrian surfaces around the world, pointing out the differences, often dictated by climate. For instance in July we focussed on California, U.S.A., a very prosperous area with a significant equestrian activity. Here, continuing drought conditions are forcing the equestrian community to consider surfacing solutions that minimise, or eliminate water usage. This is where coated surfaces can come into their own, because they should not need any watering to function properly. However we pointed out that wax surfaces can suffer from light (U.V.) degradation so 'wear out' rather quickly. Conversely, Attwoods polymer coated surface, Pinnacle, has significantly greater U.V. resistance so lasts considerably longer.

Continuing the geographical series, in September we focussed on India. Here there is a flourishing equestrian community, and at the top end India has a very successful competitive Eventing history. Unfortunately the general quality of arenas is poor, reflecting the lack of experienced suppliers and installers in the country. Several European companies have attempted to serve the market, but this has been sporadic, and none seems to have gained a foothold in the country. No doubt this is in part down to the effort required to identify suitable local materials such as sand, textile additives, and coatings. Importation of footing is an option but shipping costs can be excessive. Attwood is one of the few companies to have established such a physical presence in India, enabling us to offer extremely competitive arena solutions to the Indian market.

We travelled to Great Britain for October's edition where we find a rich equestrian heritage. With over 1.5million riders, GB is one of the most intensive equestrian countries per capita. Likewise there are a vast number of footing suppliers and arena builders, and some of the most well known companies are stationed there.



However, because of the number of equestrian companies there is strong competition, which can drive down prices, but also quality! Luckily there is a number of good quality silica sand deposits scattered around the country, including Ireland, but often, a local supplier will use local low grade building sand because it is cheaper to transport and is cheaper to buy in the first place. Surface performance can be acceptable when the footing is new, but quickly deteriorates as the poor quality sand degrades. The area is also characterised by a fairly mild but wet climate so we noted that drainage is an important facet. Equestrian arena bases here are usually built from crushed rock with a geotextile membrane placed between the rock and footing. The crushed rock method allows more efficient drainage, but this can be at the expense of too much drainage, with the result that the footing can dry out more quickly in warm weather.

We completed the mini-series on footing around the world in December, when we visited United Arab Emirates. This edition was dominated by a focus on the hot and dry climate of the region. Because of the scarcity of water, dust-free footing is popular, but again we come up against the deficiencies of waxed surfaces, where the poor U.V. stability means the coating does not last very long, and often turns black. This was the case at the high profile Meydan Racetrack, where the wax surface was replaced by dirt after only four years.

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*

