



[June 2015](#)

## Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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### More on our New Green Arenas



Last month, we introduced our 'Green Arenas', and were delighted with all the interest it generated. So we thought we would run a follow-up story on the topic.

Green arenas, apart from their attractive colour, have numerous distinct advantages, that translate directly in to superior performance.

Because our footing contains very pure fibres and polymeric coating, and no carpet scrap or recycled rubber which turns the footing black, we believe we are the only company capable of supplying a quality green product that will remain green throughout its life.

Not only will the green surface give a very appealing visual result, it is also a highly technical product. The colourant we have selected helps to keep the footing cool because it reflects infra-red radiation from the sun - approximately half the energy from sunlight. Lower tech colourants can absorb most of the sun's energy leading to significantly increased surface temperature and eventual surface degradation.

The coloured surface will also minimise glare, allowing better depth perception for both horse and rider.

To find out more, or to request samples and quotes, please do drop us a line 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)

## Pinnacle and High Performance Show Jumping

Pinnacle is an extremely versatile footing, and is eminently suitable for all equestrian disciplines. By altering the maintenance and preparation procedure, the footing can be firm to suit jumping, or looser to cater for the dressage rider taste.

Because of Pinnacle's viscoelastic polymer coating and its internal adhesive properties, suitable rolling can produce a firm surface that provides extreme stability for take-off and cornering, yet still maintains compression properties that provide for a forgiving landing. By suitable harrowing, the firmness can be replaced by a looser surface preferred by dressage riders. These unique properties make Pinnacle the ultimate in versatile footings.

George Morris is the current chef d'equipe for the United States Equestrian Federation show jumping team. Every year George teaches clinics in Attwood installed arenas and has praised the consistency of our footing products.

George Morris had not endorsed any products in over 20 years. He has become a huge supporter of Attwood surfaces and freely endorses our footing and is happy to speak about it. Below is one of several magazine advertisements with George Morris endorsements and *no compensation was provided to him by Attwood Equestrian Surfaces.*



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## Footing Facts

# Wear life of Equestrian Surfaces: Part 1

Over the next two months we cover the topic of wear-life of equestrian surfaces. Coated and uncoated surfaces differ in their mechanism of break-down, and we explore these differences. This month we address the breakdown of uncoated surfaces.

In the case of uncoated surfaces the integrity of the surface relies both on a fibrous additive to help bind the components, but also, just as important, the moisture present which provides a natural binding mechanism. Chemists call this natural binding *hydrogen bonding*. If the surface dries out then this bonding is not present so the footing components will separate, and fibres/additives can rise to the surface.



Consider the difference between dry sand in the dunes at the seaside, and that at the shoreline. Any child soon learns that the sand needs to be wet to make sandcastles! But if an equestrian surface dries out and the components separate, the situation is usually recoverable if water is replaced and the footing remixed.



Long term wear in this type of surface tends to be due to a number of factors: loss of fibres/additives in the wind due to the aforementioned separation through drying, fibre disintegration, and sand break-down into fines. Fibre disintegration is inevitable when you consider that the fibre is being abraded against abrasive sand particles. However the type and quality of fibres can play a role in how resistant the fibres are to abrasive damage. The most abrasion resistant fibres are nylon, which is why nylon is routinely used in toothbrushes. Polyester fibres are also tough and are more resistant than polypropylene fibres. Natural fibres such as wool and cotton have poor resistance and have the added disadvantage of rotting.

Sand particles will also break down, especially if a low grade, low silica content sand is used. Silica is a very hard material and will wear out only slowly, whilst a cheaper, low grade sand will most likely contain more limestone which is more than 10 times softer, and will wear quickly. Typically grains will disintegrate into smaller grains, resulting in 'fines' which can generate dust if too dry, or in rain will permeate to the bottom of the surface and block drainage membranes/channels. As we said in a previous Footing Facts, make sure you ask your supplier of sand what the level of silica is - ideally greater than 95% is preferred.

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## Our Social Media Channels



Continue to engage with us on the social media platform of your choice, [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).

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

