



October 2018

## Attwood Equestrian Surfaces, Inc

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### Attwood at World Equestrian Games 2018

Attwood has been super excited for the World Equestrian Games for months. We are happy to share how our best riders prepped on Attwood Surfaces and the journey so far!

From the time when the excitement was building for the opening of the World Equestrian Games, here is a glimpse of Colleen Loach riding for the Canadian squad doing final prep on an Attwood surface. More of the team is at Morningside here in The Plains, VA prepping on an Attwood surface. And the American team... well they are all at Will Faudree's prepping on... you guessed it.. an Attwood surface. As they say, "To be the best, ride on the best."





With only a few more days till the #WEG2018 - the American Eventing squad had been putting in their last workouts at Will Faudree's beautiful farm, gallop and covered arena by Attwood. GO teamUSA!



And then was the wonderful evening for the opening of the World Equestrian Games!



We were to show our support in full spirit. Lisa Phillips and her daughter Charlotte hanging at the Attwood booth (B11 No7). They travelled all the way from Seattle to cheer the USA squad. So important that we support our athletes in Tryon!



We just want to take a moment to say congratulations to the dressage team for bringing home the silver in a power

packed competition. From Laura Graves' "I've got this" to Steffen Peters' quiet moment with his alternate ride Suppenkasper. We are so proud of what you have achieved.

Go Team USA!



Phillip Dutton on Z, a 2008 Zangersheide by Asca Z out of Bellabouche, owned by Tom Tierney, Simon Roosevelt, Suzanne Lacy, Annie Jones and Caroline Moran, competing at the World EquestrianGames.



In the end, we just want to congratulate all the riders on their hard work and wish them all the best!

#WEG2018

## Some Inspiration for the Soul

Here's a shoutout to our beloved Stinna. She is not just inspirational in every way but gives us all a reason to fulfill our dreams and never give up!

Stinna was born with no legs, but that didn't stop her from winning a Gold Medal at the WorldEquestrian Games! What an inspiration. Yes, you can! Some of our most keen competitors are in the para divisions. These riders train just as hard as anyone to compete on the world stage.





Photo credit Elena Sbrana

## Congratulations Anthony Forrest!

Attwood is very proud to be a part of Anthony Forrest and Chip's journey towards the 4\* level.

"Officially registered for our first CIC\* event at Morven Park this October with Chip! This horse has taken me from my first horse trials ever to our first FEI event for both of us! Would not be where I am without this incredible horse and the amazing support from my parents and everyone around us! It takes a strong team to make this happen and we are one huge step closer to the 4\* dream!"





## Product Profile: Eurotex

This new additive from Europe is truly affordable and easy to install. The unique composition of Polyester and rubber fiber is further enhanced with the addition of Geopad felt and Cleffelasticated fibers providing lateral and vertical binding to achieve optimum consistency and cushioning. It can be incorporated into new or existing sand arenas.



## Product Highlights:

- Excellent shock absorption
- Customizable to suit jumping or dressage
- Helps maintain moisture retention - less watering required
- Can be retrofitted into existing sand arenas

## Focus on Eurotex:

Whilst it might be tempting to think that the additive is the most important component in a non-coated, watered surface, this would be ill-advised. Especially with this type of footing, the sand is of vital importance. Put another way, a poor sand, even when combined with the very best additive system, still won't give rise to a satisfactorily performing footing. This is because a significant level of the performance derives from the interaction between sand grains and moisture. This interaction is generally poorly understood amongst footing manufacturers, suppliers and installers. Many will supply an additive, claiming it can be used with any sand. In reality, an additive may slightly improve a poor sand, but will not bring the surface up to an acceptable condition. Here at Attwood, we will not sell our Eurotex additive unless a good sand is being specified for a new surface, or an existing sand achieves our standard.

## Footing Facts - October 2018

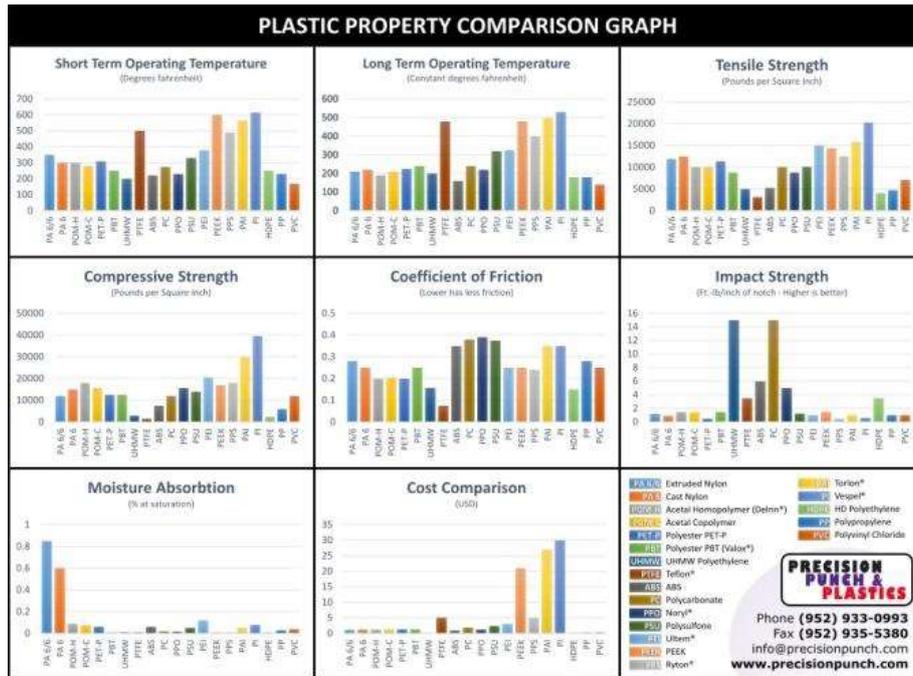
### Attwood's New Innovative & Economical SoftGround Footing

In our newsletter we include Footing Facts to bring you important technical information about the various aspects of equestrian riding surfaces. We try not to make it all about a sales pitch for one of our products, rather to bring you balanced information you will probably not find from any other footing supplier. However this month we do not apologise for bringing you news of a new product from Attwood that is so innovative we just couldn't resist including it in the Newsletter.

Attwood is renowned for its high quality, technically superior equestrian surfacing products and services. We do not sell what we consider low quality, poorly performing, or unsafe products. We have therefore always ignored cheap surfaces such as wood shaving/chips, or rubber surfaces because we feel the lower price does not justify the problems associated with such surfaces. Our products have traditionally been based on high quality silica sand, supplemented with high quality coatings and additives. However, we are happy to introduce our new surface SoftGround, which is our first departure from a sand-based footing.

SoftGround is an extremely affordable riding surface based on pieces of industrial - grade nylon carpet. Through extensive research we have determined the optimum size of pieces so that, on the one hand they are large enough not to be displaced in strong wind, and on the other, small enough so as to provide a surface with just the right amount of movement. Because essentially the pieces lay flat and interlock to a certain extent, this gives a supportive, yet 'lively' surface.

Because SoftGround is made from nylon, and is industrial-grade carpet, it is very high wearing. In fact Nylon is the toughest material known for carpets and textiles. ('Toughness' is a complex combination of a number of engineering properties such as strength, stiffness, flexural rigidity in a number of directions.)



The Nylon fibers are bound to a high strength backing, forming an almost indestructible structure - this is unlike any other carpet you will have come across.

Rain is not a problem for SoftGround as it is highly free-draining. The limiting factor in terms of drainage will therefore be the base. Softground is made of nylon so does not absorb large amounts of water, and does not change when it is wet .

Of course one major advantage of SoftGround over uncoated sand-based surfaces is that fact that it does not require watering. We quite often receive enquiries from customers who do not have access to water, or who cannot afford to adequately water their sand arena. We have in the past only been able to offer them our polymer-coated product Pinnacle because it does not require watering - but this is a major, albeit one-off, capital expenditure. Now we can steer this type of customer towards SoftGround.

In terms of installation, the surface should be laid on a base that contains some level of drainage. An angular stone base such as standard granite chippings is ideal as the rough stone surface helps to lock the first layer of SoftGround. Note that no membrane is required. Alternatively SoftGround can be laid onto mats, such as Attwood's ArenaMat system. This has the advantage that the base below the mats can be pretty much anything. Installation is simple, and can be done manually with raking, or using a machine such as a skid steer loader.

Maintenance is almost eliminated compared to a sand-based surface. A simple rake to redistribute pieces, usually from the perimeter back into the centre (especially if dressage is the main discipline) maybe once every couple of weeks is all that is required. No special equipment such as a harrow, and no complicated maintenance regime is needed. As with any surface there is always the necessity to remove droppings.

SoftGround can be used by Dressage riders or jumpers alike, and tight turns are also not a problem. Whilst we expect lower level riders to be most interested in this surface, we have serious endorsement from international level riders. In fact one international level rider in Europe has a number of arenas covered with SoftGround.



SoftGround comes in two colour schemes, grey/white (illustrated above), and sandy brown/white.

If all this sounds interesting, why not give us a call or drop us an email and we can talk more about this amazing new surface.

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## 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](mailto:info@equestriansurfaces.com), [info@attwood.in](mailto:info@attwood.in) and [enquiries@aesurfaces.co.uk](mailto: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*

