

OMNICOURT®

POWERED BY



GUIDELINES FOR THE
**CARE AND
MAINTENANCE**
OF YOUR SAND FILLED
TENNIS COURT

Care and Maintenance of Sand Filled Surfaces

We are proud to have installed your APT Asia Pacific synthetic grass surface. We are now keen to join with you in the next goal - to have your surface look and play in top condition.

To help you achieve this goal we offer the following suggestions:

Making the tips of those fibers look directly up

Rule one is that for longevity and playing characteristics we want the pile to stand directly up. However, the sand is mobile and you need to groom the surface to prevent the fibers from leaning away from the vertical.

When your surface is first installed it is essential that you store some spare sand in a clean, dry place.

Early in the life of your surface, heavy traffic areas may become deplete of sand (along the baselines) resulting in excess sand elsewhere. Level from that excess sand to the low spots on the court.

Every week for 6-8 weeks using a wide Bassine broom, redistribute sand as necessary. Give your new sand filled surface a good heavy brooming (push don't pull). When placing sand into exposed areas of the pile, ensure that you brush it in, in layers working against the direction of the lean making sure the fibers are upright and the sand is distributed evenly.

The aim during this period is to achieve a consistent level of sand with 1mm to 2mm of upward pointing polypropylene fiber exposed above the sand.

After this period the heavy brooming may be limited to approximately twice per month, however, weekly grooming remains preferable.

For clubs, an alternative to the weekly light brooming is to drag a piece of dense heavy short pile synthetic grass, with a light pallet or board weight on it, over the surface. Make sure you are using dense short pile carpet and not long pile (19mm) carpet.

Prevention is better than cure

Foreign Matter

Tree droppings cause the most common problems on tennis courts. Leaves, pine needles, nuts, etc may result in blocking your drainage system or forming an algae sustaining nutrient.

There are a few methods of removing these items:

i) *Leaf rake and shovel*

It's hard work and takes at least thirty minutes to clean your court but it's an effective cleaning method.

ii) *Mechanical blowers.*

Mechanical blowers will blow all of the leaves to one side of the court making it necessary to sweep along one side only with a leaf rake. The blower must not be used too closely to the surface as it may have a tendency to blow sand out. Blowers are not a preferred option as in the long run they may produce a hard court.

iii) *Aussie Clean Sweep*

An Aussie Clean Sweep is a cleaning device that will do the above job very well, particularly with a small weight such as a piece of timber laid across it. Drag in an oval pattern around the court. A Clean Sweep is also an effective and easy option for weekly grooming. Ask your installer for more information.

Clean your court prior to play, as trodden in or broken up leaves/needles are difficult to get out later.

Clean your shoes before entry onto the court. No food or drink (with the exception of water) should be allowed on the court surface.

Water Seepage

Ensure that retaining walls or embankments have their own drainage and do not allow water to either seep or run onto the surface. This is important as water runoff always brings dirt and nutrients with it.

During, or just after heavy downpours, some surfaces may develop a bubble. This generally means that water has managed to enter under the synthetic turf and cannot escape.

The cure is simple. Press a sharp implement such as a carving knife through the carpet a couple of times on the downhill edge of the bubble. You will not harm anything providing you limit the cut size to a 2cm ***slit***, not a hole.

The water will slowly drain out and the carpet will return to its original shape and the problem will not recur.

Burns

Burnt areas are unsightly and you may wish to remove them. For superficial burns, carefully clip the pile just below the blackened or melted tips. For large deep burns you may need to replace the area. Please contact your installer if this becomes necessary.

No smoking should be allowed on the court surface.

Algae/Moss

Should you follow all of the foregoing recommendations, you will dramatically minimise the chances of algae forming. However, should small black spots appear early treatment is essential.

Small areas of infestation can be treated with proprietary algaecides (suitable for synthetic grass – non bleach based) purchased from your hardware store. We recommend a product ‘*Wet & Forget*’. These algaecides will kill the algae but will not remove the dead remains. If not collected and removed these will form nutrients for the next crop.

It is not recommended that the remains be removed by hosing as this may well transfer the problem to another spot.

The most effective and complete treatment is a regular cleaning and servicing of your surface by a maintenance contractor.



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