



TOP TIPS

*Planning the*  
**PERFECT ARENA**

EST.  1984

**EQUESTRIAN**  
SURFACES LTD

As well as being a serious investment, planning and building a new horse arena is a big project to take on and requires a lot of careful consideration.

We've compiled a list of the top five things you should think about before parting with your money to help you make the right choice.

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# FIND A COMPANY

## *you can trust*

Equestrian arenas are extremely specialized structures, and as such complexities can arise in the planning, design and construction process. They are also a serious investment for any rider or trainer, as the final product should give use for at least 10 years, if not longer.

With these facts in mind, one of your key priorities should be to find the right company for the job.

It's a good idea to ask for referrals and try to visit other customers who have used your contractor so that you can see the final product in situ and gain a better idea of the company and the way that they operate. Reading online reviews and finding out about the company's reputation within the industry should also help you to gain a fuller sense of the contractor and whether or not they're the right one for your project.

Building a new horse arena is a large project to undertake, and there will be several big decisions for you to make along the way. For this reason, it's important that you feel you can ask the questions that you need to ask and trust the information you receive in return is accurate. Choosing a company with plenty of experience will ensure that your project is managed by a team that is knowledgeable, capable and qualified.

## Questions to consider asking of your contractor:

- How long has your company been established?
- Is it possible to see a portfolio and read some testimonials?
- Do you offer a site visit?
- How long should the job take?
- How do you deal with drainage?
- How long do your surfaces last?
- Are your surfaces suitable for all-weather use?
- Is it possible to receive a no-obligation quote in writing?

At Equestrian Surfaces Ltd we take a great deal of pride not only in the quality of our products, but also in the quality of the service we strive to provide.

With 35 years of trade experience, we have undertaken work worldwide for a variety of clients, including Her Majesty the Queen.

Our experienced manufacturing and construction teams are passionate about delivering an excellent level of service, including providing an aftercare service which has been highly rated by customers.



# 2

## SET YOUR BUDGET

*Organisation plays a key role in any large-scale project, including constructing a new equine facility or horse arena.*

One of the first steps in undertaking such a project is to determine how much money is available to see it through to completion.

Setting a budget before you instruct anyone to make a start on the work is essential, as without a clearly-defined spending limit, costs can soon begin to add up and, in the worst-case scenario, there's the potential for funding to dry up before your arena is finished.

Ensure your contractor is made aware of the key disciplines your arena will mostly be used for, whether that be jumping, dressage or polo. The discipline you intend to train for will determine the surface possibilities that are open to you, and your contractor should also be able to provide you with some more specific information on the minimum sizing requirements for your particular practice(s).

Your contractor should also take into account the number of horses that will be making use of the arena and whether or not the ground will be required for year-round training, as extras such as floodlighting may need to be accounted for if this is the case.

Don't be afraid to demand detail from your contractor's quote. A full breakdown of the quality and quantity of materials that will be used, along with a detailed specification outlining the base construction, type of fencing and the method by which it will be installed should not all fit onto one A4 sheet.

A reputable and respected contractor should have no qualms with supplying you with details of the technicalities that will contribute to the construction of your arena. If they do, choosing them to carry out the project may not be the soundest investment.

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From Equestrian Surfaces, you can expect to receive a comprehensive and detailed quote which separates the costs for the supply of your surface and the construction/installation, enabling you to make an informed decision with a breakdown of all costs provided upfront. You will also be provided with information on the quality of the materials that we produce and supply, so that you can know exactly what you're investing in.

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Used & loved by  
**Mary King MBE**

“It’s imperative to have a safe and stable surface for the training of event horses. I use Equestrian Surfaces’ Cushion Track™ because I trust in it to keep my horses sound.”



# 3

## PLAN, PLAN, PLAN!

*Budgeting isn't the only thing to think about when it comes to planning the construction of your arena; siting is also critical.*

A reputable supplier will repeatedly remind the customer that the sub-base is key. The more level the site is, the less expensive the ground preparation will be. And it's always important to remember that anything cut into the ground faces dangers of becoming water-logged in bad weather, or else could force costs to sky-rocket through the need to devise and install a more advanced drainage system.

Another factor to consider is the practicality of the job for the construction team. Construction will be made extremely difficult and most likely delayed if there is limited access for delivery lorries, particularly if you decide to build in the winter, when the weather is also likely to affect the schedule at some stage.

In order for work to go ahead, the site will need to be clear of overhead power lines, gas lines or other service lines, and if land drains are present, make sure your contractor sees the plans so that construction can be planned accordingly.

It is ideal to avoid tree belts where possible. However, if they are unavoidable, it is possible to build in their proximity - you will just need to be prepared to collect the leaves from the track whenever they fall in the autumn.

Contamination control is critical to the surface's long-term performance. With this in mind, you should make sure that the arena's access tracks are kept clean in order to ensure that the amount of debris being carried onto the surface from horses' hooves and maintenance machinery is restricted.

A convenient water supply will make the maintenance of your surface easier for you and your team. Regular watering is required for 'dry' surfaces, so for these an accessible source of water is essential and should be given priority when considering the location of your new arena.

Planning permissions and their accompanying fees can throw off the schedule and budget of your project if they are not accounted for in the earliest stages. Be sure to gather the details on your council's planning laws so that an appropriate amount of time and money can be assigned to acquiring the necessary permissions, and the designs can be drafted to avoid meeting any restrictions before the build is underway.

At Equestrian Surfaces, we work closely with a planning consultant who can not only provide expert advice, but can also manage your planning application throughout the whole planning process.

With a **100% success rate** on gaining planning permissions on equestrian installations, you can be assured that your application will be handled by the **best in the business**.



# 4

## DO YOUR RESEARCH

*The health and performance of your horse can be affected by the surface you choose for your arena*

With a number of surface options available for each particular discipline, it's important that you find out as much information as you possibly can before making your decision.

For example, in order for dressage horses to foster good paces and athleticism, a secure footing that is neither too deep nor too firm is required. Jumpers need a stable surface which allows for them to turn quickly and jump without slipping, whilst also allowing for the correct amount of rotation in their joints. Arena polo surfaces need to enable fast movement and maximum grip for quick turns and bursts of acceleration.

The different surface options that are made available to you will usually fall within one of two categories: waxed or non-waxed. Wax-coated products are suited to all disciplines, and allow the horse to perform well with minimal stress or strain. Whilst they may require a greater initial investment, waxed surfaces are known for their durability, lack of dust, and the ease with which they can be maintained, and it is not uncommon for a waxed surface to continue to perform for a decade or longer without the need for replacement or refurbishment.

A non-waxed or dry surface is a stable and economical option for your arena, however you will need to be prepared to maintain this surface more regularly. The non-waxed surfaces that we supply consist of silica sand mixed with a blend of synthetic fibres and, once laid, are incorporated into the top 3-4 inches of surface. Dry surfaces will require regular upkeep to ensure the blend is maintained. Both of the non-waxed surfaces available at Equestrian Surfaces can be used by those even at the highest level of any discipline, but will require irrigation in dry weather, and at lower temperatures these surfaces can be susceptible to frost. Whilst these surfaces are a low-cost option, you are not economizing or compromising on performance.

Our equestrian surfaces are manufactured with the use of state-of-the-art equipment and technology to comply with all relevant safety regulations to the highest standards.

Our experienced construction team is passionate about delivering an excellent level of service, allowing you to rest assured that all work will be carried out with accuracy and efficiency.





We are pleased to have gained **ISO UKAS Accredited 9001** status for the manufacture, supply and installation of all-weather riding surfaces for equestrian use. Achieving this accreditation means that our products and services have met the requirements for surface manufacture within the industry, **guaranteeing the best quality of surface** for our customers.

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## THINK LONG-TERM

*Durability and performance are key factors to consider when deciding on the best surface for your needs, but consistency and the ease of maintenance should be properly considered too.*

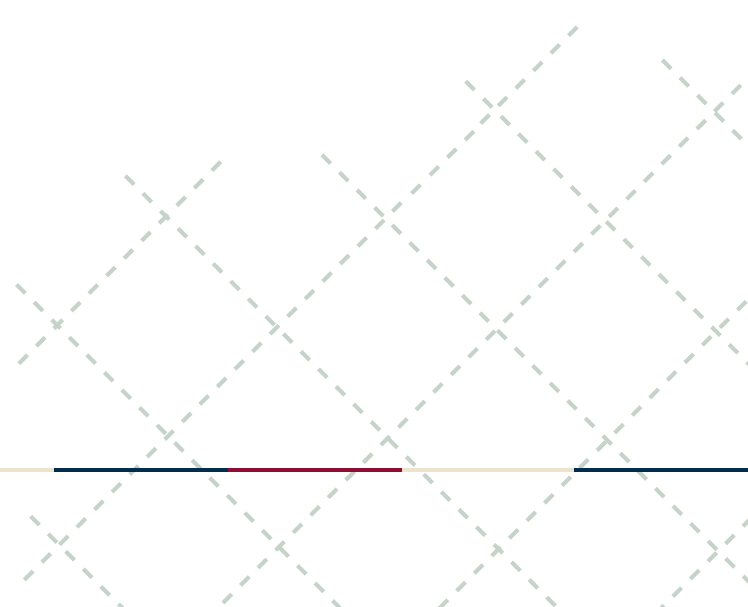
Regular maintenance of any surface is vital to ensure continued optimal performance and an extended lifespan of the material. The maintenance requirements of the surface, along with information about any necessary maintenance machinery, should inform your decision on which surface you'd like to commit to.

As well as formulating a weekly maintenance schedule, you should also commit to an annual preventative maintenance schedule in order to keep your surface performing at optimum. Preventative maintenance can include; lifting and re-laying your surface; harrowing or aerating the surface; or 'topping' up the more worn areas in order to relevel the surface.

At Equestrian Surfaces Ltd we offer a maintenance scheme for each of the surfaces we supply, making life that bit easier for you and keeping your arena in top shape.

More information on the schemes we offer can be found on our website:

[www.equestriansurfaces.co.uk](http://www.equestriansurfaces.co.uk)





# A LITTLE MORE

## *about us*

At Equestrian Surfaces Ltd we take a great deal of pride not only in the quality of our products, but also in the quality of the service we strive to provide.

With 35 years of trade experience, we have undertaken work worldwide for a variety of clients, including Her Majesty the Queen.

Our equestrian surfaces are manufactured with the use of state-of-the-art equipment and technology to comply with all relevant safety regulations to the highest standards.

Our experienced manufacturing and construction teams are passionate about delivering an excellent level of service, including providing an aftercare service which has been highly rated by customers. Whether your project involves the refurbishment of an existing arena or surface, or the construction of an entirely new arena or equestrian facility, you can rest assured that all work will be carried out with accuracy and efficiency.

We are pleased to have gained ISO UKAS Accredited 9001 status for the manufacture, supply and installation of all-weather riding surfaces for equestrian use. Achieving this accreditation means that our products and services have met the requirements for surface manufacture within the industry, guaranteeing the best quality of surface for our customers.

We aim to provide long-lasting surfaces fit for purpose. With longevity in mind, we advise customers to consider all available options before making a final decision. Our experienced team are always on hand to answer any queries you may have.

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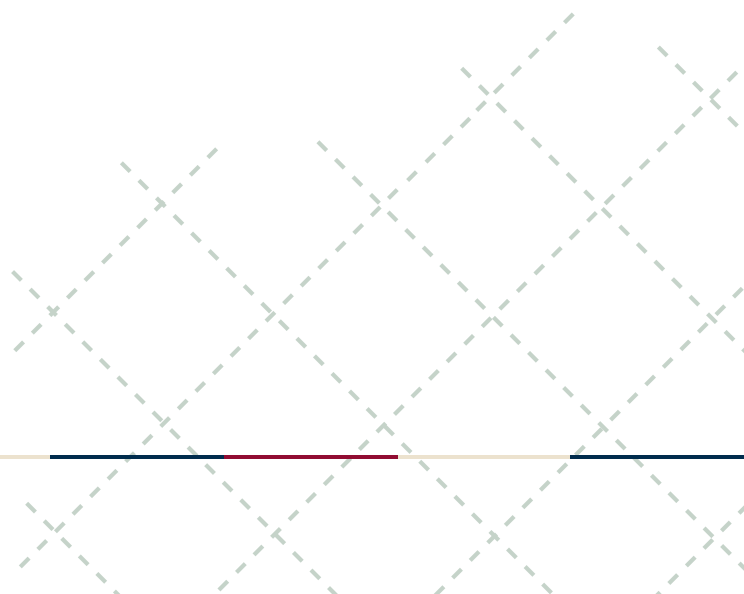
## GET IN TOUCH

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We hope this has been of use!

If you have any questions or queries about your surfacing requirements, please get in touch.

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