



Before you start...

Remove all fallen debris and droppings - if these are left in the surface they will break down and could cause contamination within the surface components, thereby affecting the porosity and life expectancy of the surface.

A guide to

IRRIGATION & SURFACE GROOMING

Carrying out regular maintenance work on your arena surface is key to ensuring it remains safe to ride on, whilst also prolonging its lifespan, but it can be tricky to know what the best maintenance routine for your surface is. We've compiled a short guide to irrigation and surface grooming to help you with getting started.

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How soon should I start grading my surface once it's been laid?

Different types of surface will require a different level of care, but it's important to remember that **all surfaces require a regular maintenance routine**.

We advise getting to grips with your maintenance schedule **as early as you can** once your surface has been laid, as this is the best way to protect your investment and ensure its longevity.

Operating a **daily maintenance** programme in the first few months will allow you to become familiar with your surface and how it's affected by different weather conditions. It will also allow you to learn the impact of horses' hooves on your surface, and to monitor the areas that are prone to heavier footfall and therefore more wear, such as the entrances, tracks, and the centre line.



Why is irrigation important?

When it comes to creating and maintaining the perfect riding surface, irrigation definitely plays a key part, especially if you have a non-waxed surface in place. Ensuring your surface is regularly irrigated will keep the materials of the surface bound together, which in turn produces a **stable surface** for increased **grip and support**.

How often should I add water to my surface?

The irrigation requirement of your surface will depend on a number of different factors, including:

- **How often your surface is used**
- **Whether you have a waxed or a non-waxed surface in place**
- **Whether your arena is indoors or outdoors**
- **How much moisture there is naturally in your area (i.e. humidity, rainfall, etc.)**

Generally speaking, outdoor surfaces require less irrigation than indoor surfaces, and waxed surfaces require less irrigation than non-waxed surfaces. If you have any questions or concerns about your maintenance or irrigation routine, give our team a call - we will be more than happy to help!

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What will happen if my surface is not irrigated regularly?

The main issue that can arise if your surface becomes too dry is that the binding between the fibres and sand will weaken, and you'll start to see **the two components separate**, usually with the fibres sitting on top and the sand forming a compact layer underneath.

The key thing to remember in this situation is not to panic - **it is fixable!** Should such a problem arise, all you need to do is **add water** to your surface and **grade it thoroughly**. This should loosen up those core components and allow them to bind together again, bringing your surface back to life!

What equipment should I use for grooming my surface?

When it comes to searching for the best surface grooming and maintenance equipment, quality is key! Here at Equestrian Surfaces, we stock a range of **high-quality graders**, varying in width from 1.5 metres to 2.3 metres, providing the perfect tool for keeping your surface in top condition.



All of our **Trackmasters** are manufactured in-house by our experienced team of technicians and can be custom built to **bespoke sizes** and specifications to suit your requirements. We also offer a colour-matching service, giving you the option to have your new Trackmaster finished in a **custom colour** to match or complement your tractor, quad bike, or existing maintenance equipment.

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How often should I grade my surface?

As a general rule, we recommend grading your surface **at least once per week**. However, if your surface only experiences very light footfall, perhaps with a few rides each day, grading every other week may be sufficient to keep it level and consistent.

If your surface experiences heavier footfall, it's a good idea to carry out a more thorough maintenance routine on a weekly basis, in addition to your daily grooming routine. Once a week, you should seek to target the areas of the arena which

experience the most footfall, as well as addressing any compaction issues that may be arising in the corners of the arena, and at the edges by the railings.

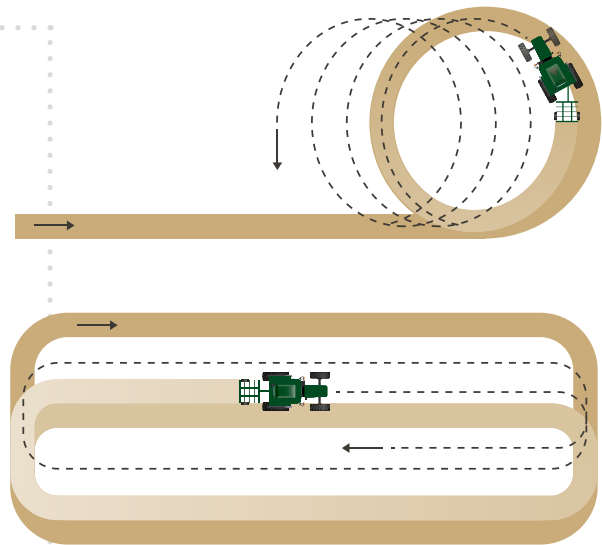
If you're using your arena for jumping, be sure to regularly move the jumps around to prevent the surface from becoming too compacted at the spots where the horses push off and land, and be sure to grade these areas too to maintain the consistency and condition of the surface.



TOP TIP

Changing the direction of travel when grading, or **changing the grooming pattern** entirely, is important to do on a regular basis, as this will ensure the sand and fibres are regularly turned over whilst also helping you to work out those difficult spots where the surface tends to become more compact with heavier use.

Remember to keep your speed as constant as possible whilst grading and avoid sharp turns. This will help to ensure that all areas of your arena receive the same attention and avoid creating banks, therefore improving surface consistency throughout.



Need some extra help?

We offer a range of 5* maintenance packages designed to help you with keeping your surface in the best condition possible. Get in touch with our team to find out more.



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