



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.

How to maintain a

NON-WAXED SURFACE

When compared with waxed surfaces, non-waxed surface options will require increased maintenance and irrigation, the routine for which will be largely dependent upon weather conditions and temperatures.

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How early should I begin grading my surface?

We always advise that you introduce a maintenance schedule as early as **possible**, as operating a daily maintenance programme in the first few months will enable you to become familiar with your surface and how it is affected by different weathers. It will also enable you to learn the impact of horses' hooves on your surface, and to monitor areas that are prone to heavier footfall and therefore more wear, such as the entrances, tracks, and the centre line.



Why is it important that I irrigate my non-waxed surface?

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**.



What will happen if my non-waxed surface is not maintained properly?

The main issue that can arise if you fall behind with your irrigation schedule and 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!

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How are non-waxed surfaces impacted by the weather?

Non-waxed (also referred to as 'dry') surfaces are likely to be affected more by changes in climate, so it's important to be prepared for an increase in your maintenance routine when the climate is especially hot and dry, or cold and wet. In the dryer periods, the surface will loosen as it dries, and the fibres can start to separate from the sand if not irrigated, but with wetter conditions, the surface will become more compact.



The goal of grading during warm, dry weather should be to keep as much moisture in the surface as possible. To do this, we advise rolling the surface to press it down and help it retain moisture. Using the tines more, or grading deeper, will increase air exposure and cause the moisture in the surface to evaporate. After rain, however, you'll be able to grade deeper into the surface to smooth out larger undulations.



Need some extra help?

We offer a range of maintenance services designed to help you with keeping your surface in the best condition possible. With multiple solutions available, we cover everything from on-demand advice and annual quality checks to full refurbishment works that can be tailored to suit any budget.



TOP TIPS

In summer - During the summer season, it is recommended to grade your surface in the early morning or late evening when temperatures are cooler and winds are calmer. This approach helps to retain moisture within the surface, ensuring better results compared to grading in the middle of the day.

In winter - During winter, you should ideally grade your surface after riders are done for the day, and first thing in the morning, before a horse steps into the arena. This will prevent your surface from freezing over, or developing frost by keeping it loose and allowing it to drain water optimally.

Embracing the rain - Although it might not sound too appealing, leveling your surface whilst it is raining is generally a better experience than in dry conditions. This is because the moisture from the rain helps to get the surface moving, and means less work on your part.

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