



Observations on Newly Coated Courts

Occasionally, owners express concern over unexpected conditions observed in new courts. Many of these conditions are normal.

After the first few rains, for example, soap bubbles will appear on the surface of a newly coated court. Detergents are added to coating materials to insure that colored pigments are dispersed throughout the coating material. While soap bubbles probably will not be visible on an indoor court, the court may be slippery, particularly if there is high humidity or condensation in the building, or if players have wet shoes when they walk on the court. Since there is no rain to wash the detergent off the surface of an indoor court, the slippery condition may last for a week or two. Players should exercise particular caution against slipping when using a newly constructed or newly resurfaced court.

Newly applied color coatings may have slight variations in color from one area to another but should appear to have a uniform color and texture when viewed from 25' (7.620m) away.

Owners, anxious to try out a new surface, may use the court before it is fully cured. When a player stops quickly or twists his shoe, the color coating may become detached from the asphalt bound undercoats. This is particularly true if the player has tennis shoes with deeply grooved patterns on the soles. Play should not be allowed until proper curing of the surface has occurred.

Tennis shoes will leave white scuff marks on a newly surfaced court. The number and severity of sneaker marks will decrease over time and owners should not be concerned by them. Black-soled shoes, however, make particularly unsightly marks on tennis court surfaces. Many shoes with dark colored soles will leave prominent marks on the surface.

Excessive ball wear and ball fuzz adhering to the court may be evident on a new court. This happens because of the sand used to regulate the speed and play of the court. Like a new sheet of sandpaper, a new tennis court is more abrasive than a used one.

New concrete courts may show some “ghosting.” When the concrete used in construction contains lime, the lime may migrate up through the coating, leaving a white residue. The migration of lime can be minimized by proper preparation of the concrete pavement before color coating.

Differences in site, weather and soil conditions require variations in construction and repair methods and materials. Readers are advised to consult a qualified contractor or design professional before undertaking construction or repair of a court. Rev. 2023