

## Fringe Season and Indoor Acrylic Coating Applications



When kicking off or wrapping up the court surfacing season, or applying indoor surfaces, additional precautions should be taken to reduce the possibility of curing related failures. In this document the early spring, late summer and early fall are referred to as the “Fringe Season”.

First and foremost, it is very important to understand that acrylic sport surfacing systems such as Laykold are WATER-BASED acrylic latex emulsions. As such, there is a huge functional difference between a newly applied acrylic coating “feeling dry” which may only take a few hours and becoming a fully cured, water stable, dry film which can take up to 21-days. Regardless of how dry a newly applied acrylic coating “feels”, the fringe season and indoor curing process takes longer to complete. This is why in addition to all standard acrylic coating application precautions and limitations; the following conditions should be closely monitored during the fringe surfacing seasons:

1. Pay close attention to all ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS including:
  - a. Substrate temperature should remain above 50-degrees F 24-hours before, during, and 48-hours after the final coating application. Acrylic coatings STOP crosslinking (curing) when the substrate temperature drops below 50-degrees!
  - b. Ambient temperature should remain above 50-degrees F 24-hours before, during, and 48-hours after the final coating application. Acrylic coatings STOP crosslinking (curing) when the ambient temperature drops below 50-degrees!
  - c. Nightly low temperatures and dew points are valuable information for successful acrylic coating applications. When nightly lows remain 4-degrees or more above dew point, very little condensation will form. However, if morning dew has formed, it must be allowed to flash off the surface prior to application of any acrylic coatings.
  - d. Shorter daylight hours, lower sun angles, and shadowing prolongs acrylic coating cross-linking (curing) times and increases the chance of “dry” coating re-emulsification.
  - e. Foreign matter (leaves, falling sticks, worms, dirt, etc.) that may accumulate on a newly applied acrylic surfacing system can cause permanent damage such as staining, softening, blisters/wrinkling, delamination, and discoloration.
  - f. Keep newly applied acrylic coatings as dry as possible for a minimum of two weeks. Advise your clients to turn off surrounding sprinkler systems!
2. Asphalt and Concrete Substrates ARE DIFFERENT!
  - a. Concrete substrates typically have a lower surface temperature, hold/transfer moisture, heat up slower, and have less surface area for adhesion than asphalt substrates.
  - b. Asphalt substrates should be given additional curing time during the early spring and early fall. It is always best to give new asphalt AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE to cure.



- c. Asphalt substrates paved in the fall should be given AT LEAST 30-days cure time and in most cases should not be coated until the following spring.
3. SMART Fringe Season and Indoor APPLICATION PRACTICES:
  - a. Only apply a single acrylic coating per day. This reduces the chance of re-emulsifying a previously applied coating that may “feel” dry. This same practice should be strictly followed for indoor applications regardless of the time of year.
  - b. Only apply acrylic coatings in areas that will be exposed to full sun for at least 6 hours after completion.
  - c. Use **LAYKOLD ACRYLIC DEEP PATCH** as a **CURE ACCELERANT**. Contact your Laykold representative for details or refer to the **Cure Accelerant** document provided.
  - d. Do not play on newly applied surfaces during the fringe season for at least 7-days after game line application. Due to the various items mentioned above, new acrylic surfaces can remain “soft” for up to a month, especially during the morning hours and after precipitation.
  - e. INDOOR SURFACING, please be aware of the following:
    - i. What is the building’s ability to exhaust air? Does it have a large gable exhaust fan and corresponding intake vent?
    - ii. Warmer air holds more moisture than cooler air. Running 30 to 45-minute cycles heating up the building and then exhausting the hot air will help remove excess moisture from the building.
    - iii. Air movement (fans) and dehumidification equipment help newly applied acrylic coatings dry faster so they can begin the cross-linking (curing) process.
    - iv. At most, only apply 1 coat of acrylic coatings a day and apply court pads and surrounds on different days to reduce the amount of moisture released into the building. In some cases it may be necessary to allow 2-days between applications.
    - v. Advise your clients to allow newly applied indoor surfaces a 7-days minimum cure time before play.