



PRODUCTS FOR SPORTS FLOORING

# Maintenance of *Mapecoat™ TNS* courts

A well-constructed and well-maintained *Mapecoat TNS* acrylic court will offer years of safe and enjoyable use. It is well documented that a dirty court will wear prematurely, will look unattractive and can have adverse effects on the bounce of the ball.

To maximize the life of a court, it is the responsibility of the owner to develop and implement a regular ongoing maintenance program. A regular inspection of the court surface and a good maintenance program will ensure longevity of the court. A well-maintained court will look better, play better and provide many years of enjoyment to all users. Remember there is no such thing as a maintenance-free court.

### General court maintenance information

The level of maintenance for an acrylic court will depend significantly on the geographic location as well as the use and type of facility.

Facilities managers/owners and players should be encouraged to keep the surface clean by prohibiting food and drink in the court playing area. Proper signage should be posted that advises which detrimental items are not allowed in the court area.

A good maintenance program includes a regular inspection of the surface and perimeter of the court.

The most important step in maintaining an acrylic court surface is to remove debris immediately and conduct regular spot cleaning. For a commercial facility, daily removal of debris and cleaning using a power blower are recommended. Private courts may not require this level of inspection or cleaning. However, all visible debris should be promptly removed from the court surface.

It is recommended that the court surface undergo high-pressure power washing every year at minimum – depending on the court’s location and whether it is in a low- or high-maintenance environment.

### Maintenance equipment

- Roller or squeegee for the removal of water
- Proper signage detailing proper use of the courts
- Power blowers to quickly remove debris and/or excess water
- Soft- to medium-bristle brooms or brushes

- Power washer of 1,500 psi or less (never use orbital or rotary high-pressure devices)
- Specific detergent and cleaning solutions for all droppings/staining issues typical for the area
- *UltraCare* Concentrated Tile & Grout Cleaner

### Court inspection

Look for the following when an inspection of the court surface is performed:

- Cracks, defects, damages, stains, bubbling, blistering of the surface, droppings and mold
- Vegetation growing onto or into the court area
- Tree branches extending into the court
- Standing water and plug drains

If a defect or a deterioration of the court surface is noticed during the inspection, a qualified court applicator/contractor should make the repair as soon as possible.

### Types of maintenance

#### Standard cleaning

- Power-blow or broom all dry dirt, leaves and other debris.
- Roll, broom or squeegee any standing water.
- Clean all droppings and stains using *UltraCare* Concentrated Tile & Grout Cleaner. Refer to its Technical Data Sheet for usage information.

#### Deep cleaning

- Power washing a minimum of once a year. Regular power washing will ensure the cleanliness of the acrylic surface and extend the life of the court (depending on local conditions, it might be necessary to power wash more often). It is imperative that extreme care be exercised with power washing so that the water jet does not damage the acrylic surface. **No more than 1,500 psi is recommended** – to avoid damaging the integrity of the surface – with tip position at 12" (30 cm) from the surface, with constant movement.
- It is recommended that the court surface undergo high-pressure power washing approximately every 1 to 2 years – depending on the court’s location and whether it is in a low- or high-maintenance environment.



- A maintenance program that includes regular high-pressure power washing of the acrylic surface will minimize the potential for deterioration to occur from excessive levels of dirt, dust, mold and any other surface contamination.
- The washing exercise is an excellent time to pick up any imperfections in the surface. These include, but are not limited to, cuts, holes, depressions and delamination. Obviously, any damage identified should be repaired by a qualified court applicator/contractor to prevent any further deterioration of the acrylic surface.

### Precautions

Most facilities use either squeegees or rollers to remove surface water from the playing area. It is imperative to make sure that the rubber of the squeegee is replaced regularly to prevent damage from metal frame strikes. Foam rollers are less damaging, but they should be hung up after use to allow correct drying and prevent structural damage to the roller.

A water-pressure cleaner is excellent for cleaning large facilities. Care should be exercised on the court surface, where the water nozzle should not be operated above 1,500 psi and not closer than 12" (30 cm) from the surface of the court. (Do not use orbital or rotary high-pressure devices.)

To avoid possible damage to the court surface during the cleaning process, the following should not be used:

- Steel brushes or abrasive materials or products
- Cotton rags (as they leave residue behind)
- Solvents

### Summary

It is expected over time for acrylic courts to show signs of wear, particularly around the baselines. Racquet chips will become evident, and the surface may appear shiny from constant sand-shoe movement over it. The level of wear will vary depending on use; typically a tennis club would plan for resurfacing every 5 to 7 years. Obviously, a well-maintained private court will have a longer life span given the reduced level of use.

