NETBALL COURT MAINTENANCE



A well maintained court is free of obstruction, clean, safe and playable for both netball training and competition. In order to be compliant, it should have a suitable slip resistance and be devoid of trip hazards.

If maintained well, the useful life of netball court surfaces can be extended and relieve councils and landowners of more regular resurfacing costs.

The amount of maintenance required on courts will be programmed around the court usage and the local physical and atmospheric environment.

Indoor courts will require more cleaning and maintenance. It is possible to play on a wet outdoor court, but not so for an indoor court.

Environments subject to heavy airborne pollution such as dust, leaves and traffic fumes are classified as high maintenance areas. Low maintenance areas have lower levels of pollution and debris, such as indoor stadiums.



MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS / SAFETY

Note: Infrastructure maintenance programs should always be developed with the Council / landowner and site manager.

Manual handling of supplies and equipment should be managed in conjunction with work safe practices. It is recommended that you work with your venue manager to create safe practices for staff and volunteers that support safe and healthy environments.

Netball Victoria affiliates and clubs should conduct "Pre-game checklists" in and around to court to ensure it's safe and playable. If there are any concerns, please contact your venue manager or Council for further advice.

Risk and safety assessment should always be conducted during maintenance programming. Risk mitigation actions will be necessary during some cleaning processes.

EQUIPMENT AND CLEANING STORAGE

Appropriate areas should be designated to house the equipment required to service each individual venue. Poles and padding exceed 3200mm in length. Depending on the size and multi-use of courts, if poles need to be housed, they can be supported by fixed dowls on walls. This prevents the poles being stored on the ground and having heavy equipment and supplies placed on top. Additional weight on poles, if not supported correctly, can cause poles to bend or nets break under excessive weight.

Examples of cleaning and equipment items requiring storage at a competition or training venue:

- Goal post trolleys
- Goal posts (spare or interchangeable)
- NSG posts
- Post Padding
- Cleaning equipment
- Cleaning supplies and solutions (stored as per risk management or Council policy)
- Indoor courts will require additional storage for cleaning equipment.
- Netball equipment and supplies (balls, bibs, portable first aid equipment etc)
- Program equipment (cones, hoops, ladders and other conditioning equipment)
- Marquees and weights

*This example does not incorporate other supplies usually stored at netball and training venues, and venues supporting other sports.

REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF GOAL POSTS

Netball goal posts should be monitored as part of a regular audit program. The conditions of the nets and posts can be improved by their appropriate storage and handling. We expect there will be some flex in the pole within tolerance.

When moving goal posts, padding and equipment, please ensure that you are following general Worksafe practices.

OUTDOOR COURTS

Action		Regularity	Engage a Club/ Association volunteer or local supplier	Engage a professional
Air blower / broom	Courts should be kept clean of debris, either with an air blower or broom – if time is critical and air blower is more efficient.	Daily (before use)	✓	
Hosing down	Courts (clean water only – not pressure washed) – depending on number of courts, this takes time to wash down and then squeegee to remove excess water. Squeegee's can be used post a rainfall to remove surface dirt and contamination.	Quarterly or as required	✓	
Professional court clean	Specialised equipment is used to ensure that surface is gently cleaned without removing essential slip resistance. It is more cost effective to train staff and buy equipiment depending on the number of courts and level of difficulty.	6 Monthly	(Optional with training)	✓
Squeegee / other equipment	Inspect and replace as required.	Regularly	✓	

Program frequency will need to reflect local environments.
Types of trees and surrounding landscape will influence the amount of leaf litter and other green maintenance. Pollution and other site activation will vary from site to site.

INDOOR COURTS

Action		Regularity	Engage a Club/ Association volunteer or local supplier	Engage a professional
Scissor mop	Regularly remove dust and dirt.	Daily (minimum)	✓	
Broom & towel	Wash Courts with "Gymclean" or similar solution (vinegar solution is sometimes used). Spot clean spills, perspiration daily with broom and towel.	Monthly	✓	
Wet scrubber vacuum machine with a soft brush attachment (optional)	A proprietary non-residual liquid organic cleaner, should also be utilised for the job. The percentage of cleaner to percentage of water will largely depend on the degree of surface contamination, and should be used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications for the particular surface type and stain. After light scrubbing, hose-off with fresh water to remove any residual cleaning agent in outdoor environment, or wet scrub/vacuum with clean fresh water in indoor environment.	Regularly (optional)		✓
Sanding & polishing	The floors receive a very light buff, which takes off the gloss without impacting too much on the timber itself. It is then re-varnished. A full court sand is undertaken as per warranty. Most sprung timber systems will only have 1-3 sanding lives, depending on the thickness of the timber and it's remaining useful life.	A full floor "light" sanding is done once a year. Full floor sanding is done as per warrantyat approx 7-20 year intervals (depending on the condition of the floor).	Yearly	✓
Pre-recoat cleaning	All shoe marks removed with white spirit and cloth. All blood, chewing gum, spills and perspiration removed with water and cloth.	**As required**	✓	
Equipment	Inspect, repair/replace as required.	**Regularly**	✓	

High Surface Impact Environment

i) Heavy airborne pollution such as dust, leaves and vehicle fumes, have a tendency to settle rapidly into the court surface. If these contaminants are not regularly removed, they will be ground into the topcoat and, with prolonged use, will cause staining and unnecessarily premature surface wear.

ii) In a heavy maintenance environment, we recommend that foreign deposits be cleaned at least once a week to minimise build-up of pollutants.

iii) Use a blower daily/before use. Only hose off if area if considered a danger (e.g. spill) as reducing slipping on court improves player experience.

MULTILINED COURTS

Where netball courts are also supporting other sports, the additional use, equipment and ways in which the courts are used can reduce the lifetime of the surface. Maintenance programs will be required to reflect the additional use.

If the courts are open to the public and also attract passive use, equipment such as roller blades and bikes will cause additional stress to the surface of the courts and require alternative programming, care and maintenance. In some cases the use of such equipment will void surface provider warranties.

MOULD GROWTH & TREE / PLANT CONTAMINATION

It is recommended that overhanging trees/plants are maintained to protect the court asset. Some species can contaminate the surface, causing staining and in some cases erosion of the surface depending on the PH levels of the leaf and plant litter.

The risk of mould contamination is particularly high where pooling of water and deposits of plant debris settle after rain. These areas should be cleaned on a regular basis, using the following method:

1. Hose-off foreign deposits with water and pressure only, if foreign deposit is stubborn, use the aid of a stiff bristle broom.
2. Saturate the surface with clean tap water.
3. *Use a dilute solution of sodium hypochlorite (liquid pool chlorine) dilution rate is dependent on severity of mould growth.
4. Broom solution over the mould area and soak for 10-15 minutes. Do not allow to dry.
5. Hose-off the surface thoroughly with clean tap water to remove all the residue solution. Keep away from plants/animals/children and wear protective clothing, as the solution is a strong bleach (it is a stronger solution than domestic bleach products e.g. Snow White, etc).

More heavily contaminated surfaces may require additional treatments or in severe cases, high-pressure water blasting and sodium hypochlorite treatment. Other algicides are commercially available.

Important Note:
***Safety to public/dogs –** A maintenance solution will be required for areas that are not fenced off from the public and where pets/dogs may access.

Test First – Testing of all cleaning methods and their effect on Surface systems is recommended before any general use.

Note: Do not use powdered Calcium Hypochlorite solution as this will leave a white deposit on the surface after drying.

FOOD / DRINK CONTAMINATION

Immediate washing (water and pressure) of the surface is recommended. If staining has occurred, then the same cleaning methods suggested for dirt or mould/plant/tree/bird/wildlife contamination would be recommended.

Note: Risks for accessible sites. Solvent based products; solvent thinners or similar products are not to be used on acrylic sports surfaces. Scouring type products (Ajax powder/liquid cleaners or similar) are not recommended for use.



SPECIFIC CONTAMINATIONS

Attempts to spot clean an outdoor court may require the full court to be hosed off (as a minimum). It is difficult to control water flow and the pathway of contamination across the surface.

i) **Fruit Bat `Droppings'**
Heavy airborne pollution such as dust, leaves and vehicle fumes, have a tendency to settle rapidly into the court surface. If these contaminants are not regularly removed, they will be ground into the topcoat and, with prolonged use, will cause staining and unnecessarily premature surface wear.

ii) **Bird/Wildlife Contamination**
This can usually be removed by a non-residual organic cleaner with a stiff bristle brush/broom and hose-off with plenty of clean tap water.

iii) **Shoe 'Sole' Staining/Rub Marks**
Use a blower daily/before use. Only hose off if area if considered a danger (e.g. spill) as reducing slipping on court improves player experience.

iv) **Chewing Gum Contamination**
It is very difficult to remove gum from the court surface. Hand scraping of the gum (metal blade) is all that is currently recommended. White spirit is sometimes used.

v) **Grease/Oil Stains from Bikes/Toys**
The best defence is to remove items and prevent contamination from grease and oil. Ensure that these items are stored away from courts and out of areas where they may be "walked" onto the court. Where machinery is used (i.e. scissor lifts/cranes), ensure that the court is protected with covers prior to machinery entering the court area.

Non residual organic cleaner is the recommended method. Morning Fresh and similar solutions have limited success. It may require several applications to remove grease/oil contamination. Thoroughly hose-off the surface with clean tap water after the application of the detergent solution.

Note: Risk assessment should always be carried out with unknown contaminants. Have a safety action plan in place to resolve issues that require other government agency intervention.

MUTLILINED COURTS – SPORTS EQUIPMENT

For multilined courts, there may be other sports equipment that can cause damage to courts. Acrylic courts are highly resistant to damage from normal racquet contact. However, metal racquets heavily impacted on the surface at sharp angles can cause slight cuts in the surface. Such damage is usually confined to the top layers and can be readily repaired. Refer to a specific instruction from professional applicators and manufacturer guidelines.

Damage from equipment such as mobile nets, goals and trolleys should be discussed with site owners/managers and installers prior to installation to reduce wear and tear on courts where possible and maintenance schedules created to support additional wear and tear.

OTHER REPAIRS

Chairs and umpire stands should have wooden bases on the legs to minimise damage to surface. Deep cuts into the base layer of cushioned Sports surfaces may be caused by sharp objects and equipment such as metal chair legs, heavy steel wheeled trolleys, stiletto heels, vandalism etc. Contact your installer immediately if any damage occurs to prevent further damage from the ingress of water.

Off court infrastructure, such as player benches, scorers benches, spectator benches and blubblers/water taps should be monitored as part of maintenance programs.

Note: Floor or surface protectors should be considered where possible.



DRYING THE COURT SURFACE AFTER RAIN (SQUEEGEES)

Well maintained acrylic surfaces can be put back into use after rain, by removing excess water with wide sponge roller or squeegee. The surface has been designed to be slip resistant even when damp. Training should be provided so that water is not pushed onto neighbouring court/s.

Ensure that the condition of the squeegee is in good working order and forms a part of the regular maintenance programs.

GENERAL SURFACE CARE

Supporting clean entries onto courts is a proactive way of preventing unnecessary wear and tear. Hard bristle mats or clean access to courts will improve users wiping shoes before entering courts, preventing stones, twigs or other sharp objects being ground into the surface. The promotion of suitable footwear, the use of equipment on court and ongoing maintenance programs will provide the best opportunity for court assets to extend their useful life.



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