



ELD ARENA MAINTENANCE TIPS

ARENA MAINTENANCE IS THE MOST CRUCIAL INGREDIENT FOR ARENA LONGEVITY.

The most common queries we receive at ELD are related to maintenance of arenas. Arena Surfaces do have a life span (generally 5 – 7 years) and regular maintenance is the only way to ensure you get the most out of your surface. An arena is no different to any other product or purchase you invest in. A car needs servicing regularly, when your car is driven more than usual your services

come up quicker. If there is a lot of traffic on your arena you will need to undertake maintenance practices more often than an arena used on the odd occasion. A 'service' for your arena may involve getting a professional in once every three, six or twelve months, depending on the use of your arena, to laser level the surface back to the arena's original state.



1 DRAG THE ARENA SURFACE REGULARLY USING A PRODUCT DESIGNED FOR ARENA MAINTENANCE.

After many years of building Dressage Arena's and customers asking how they can maintain the depth of surface, ELD designed the **ELD Arena Spread-a-bar®**. This product is specifically designed for maintaining your arena surface on a daily basis. ELD have seen many and varied ways of dragging your arena, the most popular include gates - designed to keep horses in paddocks and tines, harrows and ploughs which can wreak havoc with your arena base layer as they are designed to rip up soil for planting.

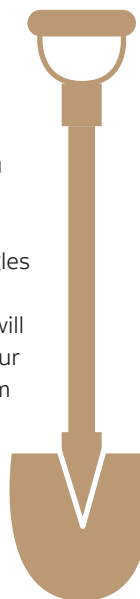
ELD recommends using the **ELD Arena Spread-a-bar®** in a different direction every time. This will help ensure the surface does not build up in the same areas. Unhook your **ELD Arena Spread-a-bar®** in a different position on the arena after use to avoid build up in one area. Every time place your **ELD Arena Spread-a-bar®** in a different corner when you commence to help drag out any build up. It is best to start on the quarter line of your arena or at least half a metre in from the edge and work your way out towards the edge of the



arena. Then return to the outer edge. Try off-setting the ELD Arena Spread-a-bar® to one side of your towing vehicle enabling you to bring the surface away from the edges and back onto the track. Be creative by the use of circles, triangles and the traditional rectangles each time you drag your arena and you will spread the surface more evenly. Your arena should be dragged a minimum of once a week. Depending on the level of use, maintenance may need to be done on a daily basis. As a rough guide - 1 horse per day, once per week, 2 horses per day - twice a week, and so on.

2 SHOVEL ARENA EDGES ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ASSIST DRAINAGE.

Approximately every two weeks your arena edges should be shovelled. Both the inside edge of the arena and the outside where horses may flick sand out over the arena surrounds (depending on the height of your surrounds). Drainage points need to be kept clear around your arena (between the sleepers). If this is not done the surface will build up affecting the drainage from your arena.



Please do not hesitate to contact Todd Cunningham 0407 149 637

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3 KEEP GRASS AND WEEDS AWAY FROM YOUR ARENA SURFACE.

A professionally constructed arena will have the base compacted and be made of a suitable quality assured product so weeds and grass will rarely grow up from underneath, most weeds on your arena are deposited by birds flying above. Grass and weeds are also spread from mowing and spreading seed across the surface - always mow with your catcher away from your arena Surface. Smaller weeds should be easily pulled out without damaging your base. If weeds and grass are left long enough, without removal, they may take root in your base causing damage to the structure. Keep weeds and grass away from the edge of your arena as this will also slow down your drainage. During storm season it is suggested that the grass is kept fairly close to the arena surrounds (within 30cm) to slow down the water and avoid the surface blowing out while

dealing with the large quantities of water in a short period of time. If there is a lack of grass cover around your arena placing a bale of hay or similar will help to slow down the water flow during sudden downpours avoiding damage to your batters and surface.

In Summer your arena surface will dry out more quickly than in Winter when the sun isn't as strong and there are often more cloudy days. Summer rains tend to come in storms and downpours whereas Winter rains can tend to be more soaking and hence take longer to drain off and dry out. As a guide for every inch of rain you receive allow one hour of draining time on a well maintained and constructed arena. Keep gardens and hedges away from drainage points as this will affect the arenas ability to drain.

4 NEVER LEAVE HORSES UNATTENDED ON THE ARENA.

Using your arena as a 'stable' or 'paddock' will not only result in your surface breaking down at a faster rate, but rolling and pawing can do damage to the base layer under your surface. Leaving your horses on the surface also adds to the risk of weeds from their manure. If you plan on lunging on your ELD Arena ensure you move up and down the surface rather than staying in one spot - as this will ensure your blinding layer is not damaged and stop surface building up in one spot.

5 TO PREVENT SURFACES DRYING OUT -

Moisture content is the key to a consistent ride and the ideal option is installing a sprinkler system. This will aid, not only in minimising dust levels, but also to achieve a consistent "ride" or "feel" for daily training. Surfaces have bulking factors and react greatly to the weather. As a result in dry times the surface will feel looser, when the surface is wet it will provide a firmer ride.



6 ARENA MAINTENANCE VISITS

Professional Service by ELD which brings your surface back to base modelling across the arena. Using our specifically designed Laser Planes we are able to work within mm tolerances ensuring your surface depth is kept even.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE EVERY WEEK MAY HELP ADD AN EXTRA YEAR OF LIFE TO YOUR ARENA.

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