

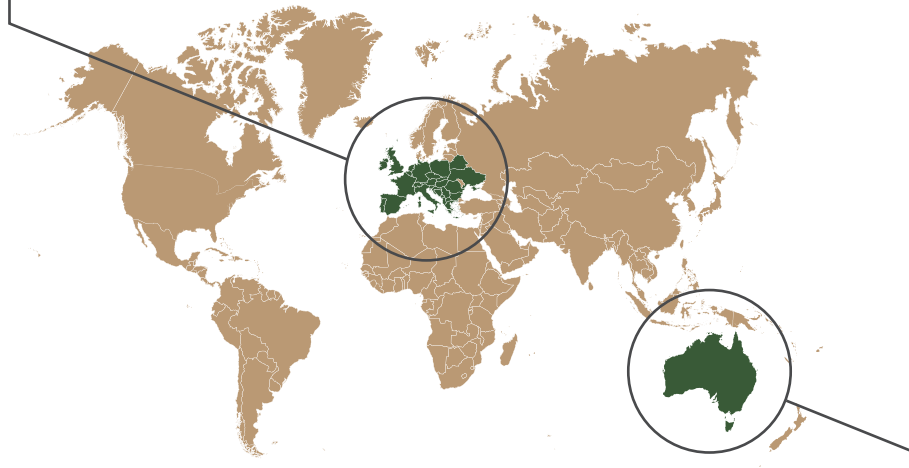


ELD SYNTHETIC SURFACES TIPS

CONSIDERING A SYNTHETIC SURFACE OR PRODUCT FOR YOUR ARENA?

Below are a few points to take into consideration when researching and selecting a Synthetic Product or Material for your Arena Surface:

Synthetics were originally used in Europe to help stop surfaces from freezing over during the winter months. European style surface construction generally consists of a fine silica sand (similar to beach sand) and high levels of moisture content to ensure consistency of ride of the surface for varying disciplines.



In Australia our sands and materials are different and our water supplies are costly and not so abundant. We also have more extreme weather conditions - heavy downpours, storms and flooding events in Summer compared to more steady rain in the UK and Europe. High temperatures and drought conditions are also a regular occurrence. Humidity can affect the performance of some fibres causing them to rot and breakdown quicker. Australian surfaces need to be able to adapt to a wide range of weather conditions and elements.

- **Water availability** – A number of products will require large amounts of water to ensure a consistent ride. Some synthetic surfaces may be supplied with a wax/gel in them - waxes can be highly reactive to temperatures and moisture content, which may change the ride throughout the year particularly on an outdoor arena. Consistency is the key.
- **Ongoing Maintenance** – Synthetic Surfaces will often require a specific type of maintenance implement or tool, generally one with a roller and sprung tines. Maintenance is also more labour intensive compared to a standard Sand type surface. Regular maintenance visits to bring the surface back to its original blend can be more expensive. Depending on the type of additive, it may require regular topping up.
- **Training vs competition consistency** – Training daily on a synthetic surface and then competing on a variety of different sand based surfaces can alter your horses performance.
- **Down the track** – Consider disposal options as you may be limited due to regulations.

ELD doesn't recommend installing synthetic surfaces if you are located in a water course or flood zone due to Environmental Protection issues that could arise.

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS ARENA SURFACES

As environmental awareness continues to grow, ELD has made a clear commitment to move away from synthetic additives in all Arena Surfaces.

This decision stems from concerns around microfibres, microplastics, and other airborne particles that may be present in synthetic materials or released as they degrade over time. These particles pose potential risks to horses, riders, and anyone working in close contact with the surface.

ELD exclusively uses our own manufactured sand-style surfaces, which have proven their performance and durability over many years. These natural surfaces require less maintenance, support rider and horse health, and present minimal environmental impact.

Dust suppression is effectively managed through the use of watering systems, and because our surfaces are nature-based, they leave a significantly smaller footprint on the planet.

In addition, the end-of-life costs associated with removing synthetic additives from equestrian surfaces can be prohibitive. The removal process in Australia is often complex and may require specialised equipment and professional assistance. Depending on the type and amount of additive, it may involve detailed separation, cleaning, or full replacement of the material – adding substantial cost and effort. Choosing a natural surface from the outset eliminates these future challenges.

Please do not hesitate to contact Todd Cunningham 0407 149 637

Equestrian Land
Developments Pty Ltd

A PO Box 98, Cooroy QLD 4563
E info@equestrianlanddevelopments.com

www.equestrianlanddevelopments.com

