

## Court cleaning recommendations – during the COVID-19 pandemic

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Squash courts are a unique sports facility, which require specific care and maintenance to keep them in optimum playing condition. This also means that they present a challenge to reducing the risk of transmitting COVID-19. The aim of this guide is to provide practical advice and supporting measures to help courts/venues keep their members and workforce as safe as possible. England Squash has worked with approved contractors to develop the following guidance.

#### Prevention first

The primary and most effective step to reducing risk of transmission for squash clubs/venues is to promote personal hygiene to the individuals participating. This means introducing and enforcing a range of actions for your members, including:

1. **Hand hygiene** – members must wash hands for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitizer before entering the court. Hand sanitizer and alcohol-based wipes should be made available at key points in the club e.g. entry and exit points, court doors.
2. **Do not touch the walls or court floor** – we strongly recommend this rule is strictly imposed across all clubs. If a player accidentally touches a wall or court floor they should stop and immediately sanitize their hands.
3. **Only one person to open/close the court door** – only one player going on court should touch the door.
4. **Only one person to touch the ball** – only one player should touch the ball throughout the duration of play.

#### Cleaning common surfaces and contact-points

Clubs/venues must take responsibility to clean commonly touched surfaces and contact-points in between each court booking as part of the COVID-19 secure plan. Points to consider include:

- Identify the common contact points in your club/venue as part of your risk assessment e.g. door handles, light switches, taps etc.
- Provide suitable cleaning materials for members to clean these surfaces, including spray disinfectant and alcohol-based wipes made available at key points in the club e.g. entry and exit points, court doors. This must be in addition to a thorough cleaning schedule undertaken by a responsible member of the workforce/staff.
- Allow for more time in between bookings than usual for cleaning to take place.

#### Cleaning court walls and floors

Squash court walls and floors are particularly sensitive to disinfectant and/or constant soaking and therefore cannot be 'deep cleaned' on a regular basis without potentially damaging them. This means that there is an increased likelihood of there being traces of the COVID-19 virus on court surfaces. However, there are some measures in addition to those outlined above which can be implemented, with the aim of reducing the risk, including:

- **Spot cleaning** – where a member knowingly touches the floor wall, or drops sweat or bodily fluids, they should use an alcohol-based cleaning wipe to clean that area immediately (do not use a towel). Any liquid should be dried off immediately with a separate dry cloth (i.e. paper towel).
- **Dry mop** – use a dry mop at the start and end of every day (where the court has been used) on the floors and walls. Disinfect the mop(s) overnight and rotate multiple mops if possible.
- **Close courts** – where possible and practical to do so, rotate the courts that you use, allowing for a court to be closed for periods of at least 72 hours.
- **Keep your usual maintenance routines** – supplement your usual court maintenance routines with the recommendations made here. You know your courts best, including how they have been treated in the past.
- **Ask for advice** – If you are unsure of the best way to maintain your courts contact one of our approved court care contractors, for any specific advice.

(Note: these measures are not guaranteed to kill/remove the COVID-19 virus fully)

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### **Additional considerations**

- Inform your members what you expect from them and what they can expect from you. It is important that individuals also take responsibility for themselves and others, only by communicating this widely can you expect people to do so.
- Don't cut corners! The safety of your workforce/staff and members is paramount.
- If you continue to have concerns about the safety of your workforce/staff and members, you must be prepared to keep your club/venue closed until you are able to put mitigating safety measures in place.

Please refer to additional information available from UK Government sources:

- UK Government Guidelines - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities>
- Public Health England Advice - <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>
- HSE Guidelines - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/news/coronavirus.htm>

A list of the England squash Approved Contractors can be found on [englandsquash.com](http://englandsquash.com)

England Squash are sharing the information here for guidance only and have not evaluated the content or carried out tests relating to either COVID-19 transmission or potential damage to court surfaces. England Squash does not guarantee the accuracy of the information and accept no responsibility or liability for any consequences arising from the use of this information. If you are unsure on how to clean your courts, please contact an appropriate court specialist or hygiene expert.