

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET No 10a

January 2014

GUIDE TO COURT WALL CLEANING

GENERAL

1.1 Court walls should, ideally, be cleaned once a year. Cleaning will improve the reflective light within the court and the overall appearance of the court.

1.2 If the court has not been regularly cleaned and there is a build up of ball marks and grease on the wall surface, we strongly advise using one of the Approved Contractors, (see Information Sheet No.1), who are experienced in cleaning and carrying out any repairs that may be necessary.

1.3 Before attempting to carry out minor repairs or to clean the wall surface or to paint the out of court areas, the floor must be protected. Scaffold towers with wide plastic type wheels should only be moved on ply or similar rigid protective sheets. Covering the floor with plastic sheets will reduce the chance of water damage.

1.4 Marks on the walls are mainly caused by graphite and similar type materials used for racket heads. Players should be made aware of the requirements in the Rules of the International Game of Squash Rackets, that bumper strips are mandatory and should be fitted to all racket heads to prevent wall and floor marking.

Grease marks caused by body contacts on back and side walls should be completely removed, if allowed to remain, the grease will penetrate the surface and become a permanent problem.

1.5 Cleaning plaster surfaces, new or re-plastered, which have been applied recently and the plaster used can be identified, you are advised to contact the applicator or supplier of the material used before attempting to clean the surface. They will be able to provide information of a suitable cleaner. Refer to Information Sheet No.10 for Approved Contractors and Suppliers of wall surfacing materials. (wall plaster)

1.6 If the plaster used on wall surfaces has not been identified, before attempting to clean them, a small area should be cleaned using a diluted degreasing type cleaner. Allow the area to dry completely to test the effectiveness of the cleaner used. A nylon scouring pad may be used to remove stubborn marks

In no circumstances should an acidic cleaner be used on a plastered surface as this will remove a thin layer of the surface material and etch into the surface which will become powdery. Some plaster type surfaces are open textured and extremely difficult to clean successfully. A mild detergent (anionic) may be brushed or sponged on and rinsed with clean water may be tried.

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1.7 Panel systems based on a solid core with a melamine or similar surface, contact the supplier or manufacturer, who will advise on the method and the type of cleaning materials to be used. Ball marks in local areas can often be removed using a damp cloth. For more extreme cleaning, wash down using a mild domestic degreasant cleaner. Rinse with clean water.

1.8 Painted wall surfaces, both concrete panel systems and previously painted panel system courts, may be washed down using a mild domestic degreasant diluted. Use a foam type pad to remove ball marks and stubborn stains. Wash down with clean water.. Court walls that require repainting should be carried out by an Approved Contractor. See Information Sheet No.10. They will be able to prepare the surface, carry out minor repairs, apply an undercoat and a finishing coat of a paint formulated for use on a squash court.

1.9 Glass back walls. Use a spirit based cleaner suitable for glass. Use on a regular basis.

2.0 Glass courts. Refer to the installer or manufacturer for their recommendations, as some have applied ContraVision panels.

PLASTER SYSTEMS

To help identify materials used for court walls, the following may be of assistance but is not meant to be comprehensive.

A number of these are no longer available and you are advised to contact an Approved Contractor if repair materials are required. Refer to Information Sheet No.1 and /or No.10 for a list of current Approved Wall Plasterers.

2.1 Keenes cement and British Gypsum Squash plaster. Both are slightly pink in colour. These are very rare and have not been made for at least 50 years, but they may exist on very old courts.

2.2 Armourcoat. Very white finish on a pale grey base coat. Still in production and freely available. Supplied as a complete wall system, application by Approved contractors.

2.3 Armourcolour. Still available by special order. See 2.2 above.

2.4 Prodorite. In various forms. White surface on grey basecoat, sometimes found on cement and sand render coats. Contact Armourcoat, who offer repair material.

2.5 Rebound. Slightly off white in colour. Still available. Refer to Information Sheet No.1

2.6 Tuffwall/impact. White finish. Contact email impactinter@aol.com

2.7 Squashwall. Slightly off white and tends to be open textured. Leading to a grainy finish

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2.8 Fibrocem. Off white tending to a very pale colour. Identified by very small glass fibres in the surface.

PANEL SYSTEMS

3.1 ASB. Painted finish, pale cream/green finish. Panels are sand filled. Still being manufactured. Contact UK Agent (Information Sheet No.1) for advice and spares.

3.2 Banbury. Structural concrete panels. Self supporting. The original courts had a sloping roof line from the front of the court to the rear wall with a narrow viewing gallery. Later courts have a flat roof over the length of the court. No viewing gallery. Contact an Approved Contractor for further information.

3.3 Bicester. Panel system sometimes found with external walls of conventional brick or blockwork. Painted finish to the panels. Courts can be identified by the hollow sound when struck with the ball. No longer in production. Contact an Approved Contractor for further information.

3.4 Fibreresin panels. A number of courts using this form of construction are being made. Courts freestanding within a steel or similar frame building. Surface of the walls vary, some white, others are pale coloured with a slightly textured surface. This form of panel is also used for replacement front walls. These courts usually with a glass back, have the makers name and logo visible.

3.5 Siporex. Concrete panel system with a painted finish. No longer in production. Treat as a painted finish with a small test area before repainting.

3.6 Perstorp/Respatex. Panels on a framework or fixed directly to structural wall. Various pale colour finishes. Contact an Approved Contractor for further information.

3.7 Complete glass courts and glass back walls to courts. Usually identified by logo on door or door furniture.

3.8 CourtTech. Refer to Information Sheet No.1 for UK Agent.

3.9 Courtwall. Refer to Information Sheet No.1 for UK Agent.