



ATHLETIC FLOORING

Operation, Maintenance and Repair of Decoflex™ Athletic Flooring

SPORT USE

When sport is practised on a synthetic floor such as Decoflex™, the appropriate sports shoes for the required sport should be worn. If sport shoes with spikes are worn, they should not be longer than 6 mm [1/4"] and on javelin or high jump runs up no more than 9 mm [3/8"]. Rephouse recommends spikes for general events to be between 3 mm [1/8"] and 6 mm [1/4"]. These reduce wear yet ensure a high performance for athletes.

For daily training or student use, Rephouse recommends the use of tennis shoes. Use of clay spikes will damage synthetic flooring and should never be used. We suggest the use of sign boards at the facility to warn users of the correct use of spiked shoes.

It should be noted that during competition or practice use, no provisional color markings should be used as these will be difficult to remove or may act as a solvent to the flooring material.

Rephouse recommends to protect and extend the service of the track surface by fencing off the 1st and 2nd inner lanes during training. These inner two lanes should be only opened for competition use.

The use of starting blocks in training or competition should always be ones so approved but in any case, the fixing spikes must never be longer than 10 mm [3/8"]. For practice use, it is wise to set aside a separate start line away from the actual one - Rephouse suggests that this practice start line should be in the assembly area behind the start of the 110 m hurdles.

NON SPORT USE

Synthetic flooring, such as Decoflex™, should only be driven over by vehicles in exceptional circumstances such as maintenance, emergencies, etc. Excessive exposure to oil drips, loading because of starting or stopping wheels can cause severe damage and effect its intended purpose. Vehicles used around and over the track surface should be regularly checked to ensure they are free from oil, petrol or diesel leaks. Any deposits of oil, petrol or diesel on the Decoflex™ surface should be immediately washed with detergent and water and thoroughly flushed with water.

The total weight of any vehicle should not exceed 3 tonnes with the average load per wheel not exceeding 1 tonne. Vehicles with air-filled tires can be used but only with the consent of the Rehouse.

Under special circumstances where heavy vehicles do have to enter i.e. large stadia, Rehouse recommends that the Decoflex™ surface is covered using plywood boards or gangways i.e. the use of something safe to protect the surface.

No equipment should be allowed on to the surface which is hard and sharp enough to damage the surface. Common sense and observation will show what is safe and what is not.

It is beneficial to use a portable bridge structure to allow users such as football teams to cross the track surface to the center of the arena. The use of ball boys during matches is also advised to prevent dirtied players [cleats, boots, etc] onto the surface.

Cigarettes, chewing gum, bottle tops, cans, ring tabs, etc. should be kept off the surface.

MAINTENANCE

Regular checks and maintenance procedures of the Decoflex™ surface is necessary to ensure its service life and functional characteristics. The nature and extent of the required maintenance will depend in particular on the degree of air pollution [proximity to Industry], the state and condition of neighboring surfaces [e.g. landing pits, track surrounds and cultivated areas] and the incidence of algae, moss, fallen leaves and debris.

The two inside lanes [lane 1 and lane 2] as well as the start area of the 100 m, 200 m and 400 m as well as sprint relay boxes should be regularly inspected for damage. These areas in particular are areas of heavy use and will shown signs of wear first.

The Decoflex™ surface should be kept clean and free of debris, rubbish, grass cuttings, leaves and sand by regular sweeping and vacuuming. Machines such as the “Billy Goat” BG1002SP vacuum cleaner as well as the “Stihl” BR 340 L Backpack Blower are suitable. Periodical pressure washing is also advisable using a medium-to-wide spray nozzle especially in areas where sand will prevail i.e. landing pits, etc.

Fertilisers: these may release stains on the Decoflex™ surface. Rehouse advises caution and should fertiliser be spilled on to the surface, we recommend a thorough pressure wash.

CLEANING

The Decoflex™ athletic floor should be pressure washed, using a medium-to-wide spray nozzle at a medium pressure setting. Every season this should be preceded by spraying a non-foaming detergent on the surface - this helps prevent a build up of atmospheric deposits and retain a fresh appearance.

The inner kerb should be cleaned with a non-foaming detergent and damp/wet cloth from time to time.

It is important to note that during pressure washing no chemical residue remains as this may leave stains but it may also detrimentally effect the non-skid properties of the surface.

REPAIRS

Small or large areas of the track can be replaced without the need of large special machinery. Color differences will occur between old and newly installed sections of a surface. This phenomenon is unavoidable but colors will blend in over time. Joints at repair areas will exist and will be visible however, they should not effect the use of the surface.

Repairs should only be carried out by approved Rephouse contractors.

Track markings should be touched up periodically from the start of the use of the surface. Track markings should in general be re-marked every 2 or 3 years. This is highly practised operation and should only be done by certified specialists who can guarantee their work.



© Rephouse 2007