



SoftShoe®

Horse Arena Installation

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Generally an outdoor arena sub-base should be built as similar to a road base as possible. It should be close to 100% compacted, have sufficient drainage, and most importantly, be impervious to grinding horse hoofs that can cause considerable damage. Following are guidelines- only guidelines because no two situations are alike.

Step-by-Step Installation Guidelines:

1. Choose a site that drains well and if possible has a natural slope for both drainage and to prevent outside water infiltration. Consider prevailing wind and breezes. Also consider the noise, dust and constant activity that may cause problems for others.
2. Measure the site and remove top layer organics. Grass and soil will turn to muck after a good rain. You do not want this contaminating your arena.
3. When you have reached a solid layer such as clay. Have the arena compacted, leveled, and then sloped towards 1 1/2% grade to the lowest point. Depending on how much you have removed from the site you will need to build back up with a compactable aggregate. Check locally for the best products. This is an inexpensive way to build your subsurface back up to ground level. Place a geotextile layer as a stabilization and separation material between the layers. Next you will add 3/8" limestone screenings. This needs to be as close to 100% compacted as possible as it will take a beating from your horses' hooves. It will then have to be sloped to 1 1/2% and laser leveled. Depending on the traffic in your arena the screenings should be approximately 4-6". It may also be called stone dust. Check with your local quarry. There are many different names for similar aggregates. You do not want this layer to break up and render your footing too deep. A soil separation fabric (geotextile) should be laid on top of the compactable aggregate, prior to the application of the stone dust. The stone dust should be applied to the top of the geotextile fabric, prior to laying down your sand and **SoftShoe®**.
4. You are now ready for your Sand Arena Footing at a depth of 2" - 3". **SoftShoe®** at 1" or so (rubber/fiber) should be tilled or disked/fully incorporated into your sand.
5. It is important to keep the rubber/fiber mix, **SoftShoe®**, incorporated into the footing. It should not sit on top of the footing. By mixing the fiber/rubber you will see better cushion and binding of the footing itself. Enjoy a safe and resilient footing for years to come.

NOTE: These are general guidelines only. Please consult a local professional for site-specific recommendations. IGK Equestrian, LLC assumes no responsibility for the suitability of these recommendations to your arena.

For True Riding Perfection...

