



# Arena Surface Installation Guide

TruStride™ · LiteStride™ · SteadiGait™ · EquiBlend™ · SoftShoe™

*This guide is intended for contractors and facility owners receiving and installing IGK Equestrian arena footing products. IGK products are not self-installed by IGK. Please review all sections before delivery.*

## PART 1 — RECEIVING YOUR PRODUCT

### Van Trailers (Bagged Material — SuperSac Bags)

- Van trailer plus tractor totals up to 75 feet in length — assess driveway entry/exit carefully.
- Turning radius is significant; contractor or owner is responsible for any site preparation or accommodation.
- Product arrives in SuperSac bags weighing 1,900–2,300 lbs each — confirm receiving equipment capacity.
- SuperSacs may be single- or double-stacked in the trailer depending on weight distribution.
- SuperSac bags require on-site disposal — plan a receptacle accordingly.

### SuperSac Unloading Methods

- Chain Drag: Use 60–80 ft of chain to drag bags to the rear of the trailer. Keep chains low to prevent tipping. Up to three bags can be dragged at a time.
- Telehandler: Lift bags by handle loops. Note that a standard telehandler will likely not reach the full length of a 53' trailer.
- Mobile Ramp: Drive onto the van trailer and lift bags by handle loops.

### Dump Trailers (Bulk Material)

- Dump trailer plus tractor runs 45–48 feet long — similar site access considerations to van trailers apply.
- Dump trailers cannot dump inside a structure unless significant ceiling clearance is available.
- Carry more tonnage than a dump truck but are less maneuverable on tight sites.
- A dedicated drop area with tarps is required to prevent footing contamination — tarps are typically single-use and must accommodate the full shipment volume.
- Drop area and driveway must be clear of overhead obstructions (power lines, tree limbs, etc.).

### Dump Trucks (Bulk Material)

- The most maneuverable bulk option — ideal for tight arena sites; limited in total tonnage per load.
- Dump trucks cannot dump indoors without significant ceiling clearance.
- Same drop-area and overhead-clearance requirements as dump trailers apply.
- Driveway must be clear of trees and obstructions.

## PART 2 — INSTALLING IGK ARENA SURFACES

### Base Preparation — Critical First Step

- Inspect the installed base and ensure it is within ½" of grade before footing installation begins.
- Significant grade variances will carry through into the finished surface and may prevent a proper installation.
- Laser-guided grading machinery is strongly recommended for highest-quality results.
- Confirm proper compaction of base materials before any arena surface is placed.

### Compaction & Depth Calculation

- IGK arena surfaces are installed at an 8–10% compaction rate.

- Example: A 4" uncompacted footing order should be graded to 3.6"–3.68" to achieve the correct finished depth.
- Footing material does not push like conventional sand or aggregate — it has a tendency to "sheet" when reaching installation depth. Adjust technique accordingly.

### **Installation Technique — Best Practices**

- Install material in small increments rather than pulling from large piles.
- Begin installation at the arena entrance and work inward — it is easiest for the operator to work off the footing surface rather than the base.
- Power rake + laser-guided box grader is the preferred equipment combination: the power rake agitates material to final depth, while the box grader ensures accurate installed depth.
- Employ gradual turns throughout — avoid spinning on base or arena materials.
- Work material incrementally toward edges to minimize handwork required at fence lines, corners, and walls.

### **Finishing & Final Inspection**

- Rolling at initial installation is optional — equipment running over the footing during install provides adequate compaction on its own. Rolling will not cause harm.
- Complete the installation with a pass of the arena groomer — this refines any high or low spots created during grading or cornering.
- All IGK surfaces are typically installed directly over a stone dust layer.
- Fabric/geotextile underlayment is not recommended unless special accommodations are made and extra footing depth is installed. Even with accommodation, fabric layers always carry risk of migrating to the riding surface.

**Note: For product-specific questions or pre-installation consultation, contact IGK Equestrian at [igkequestrian.com](http://igkequestrian.com).**