

# **Tennis Court Surface Preparation and Coatings Removal**

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# Let's State the Obvious

- Preparing a court is the most important aspect to the job.
- Courts need to be clean and free of debris
- Getting on your hands and knees is time consuming, tough on bodies and just not necessary anymore.
- Certain tools and equipment can make your prep work easier.

# Blowing and Scraping

- Essential equipment on any project
- Cleans leaves, dirt, pollen and other debris
- Helps remove loose coatings.
- Blowers can be used to dry wet courts



# Pressure Washing

- Not always necessary
- Effective on extremely dirty, moldy courts
- Water can be mixed with a mild detergent
- Higher pressure settings can damage coatings





# Pressure Washing





# Pressure Washing

Before

After



# Why Strip a Court?

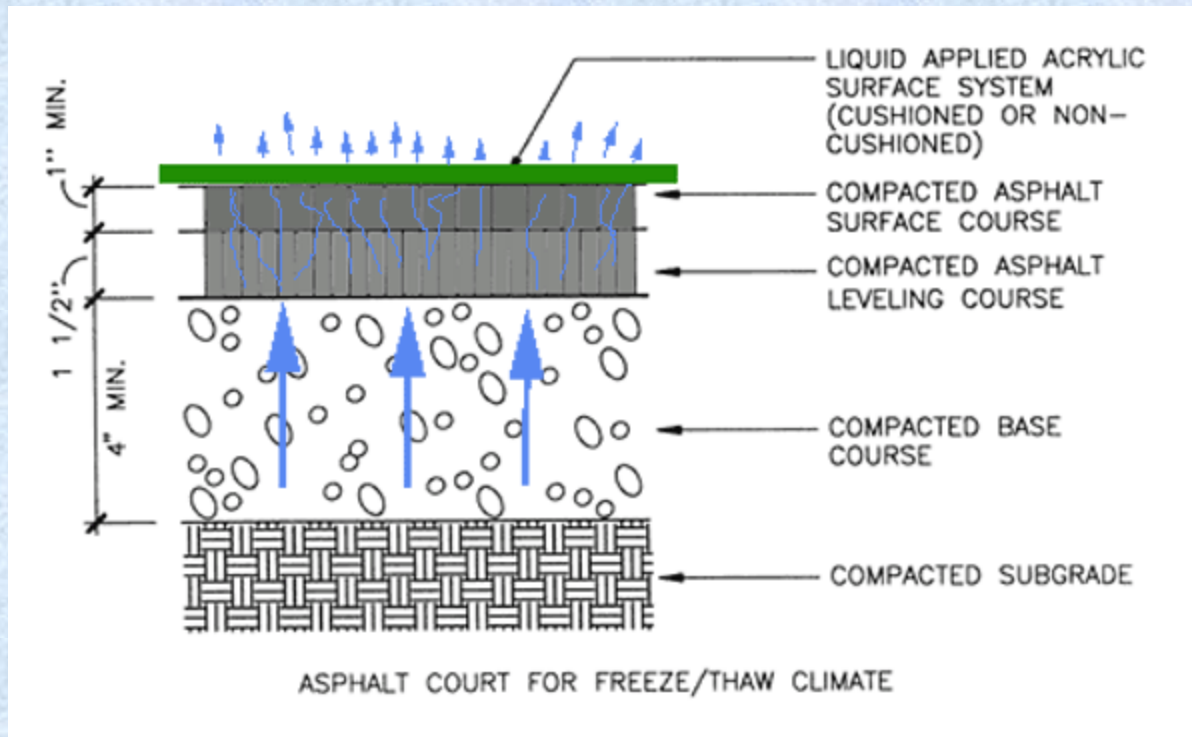
- Coatings beyond their lifespan
- Too many coats
- Asphalt emulsion
- Permeability and Drainage Issues
- Asphalt or Concrete Sub-base Issues
- Change of surface

# Permeability

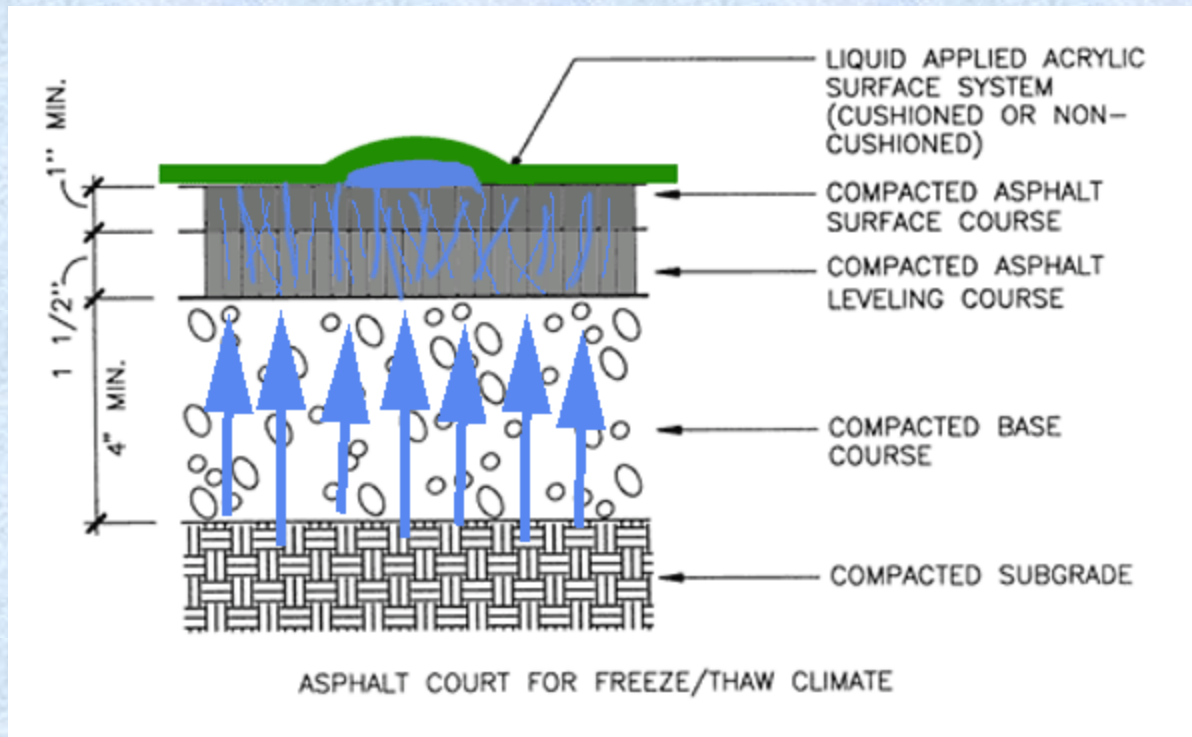
- 100% Acrylic Surfaces are considered “semi-permeable.” They will allow some moisture vapor to pass through small pores in the coatings.
- Some vinyl acrylics and most mat systems are considered impermeable.
- Cushion products are generally more permeable than color or resurfacer.
- With each subsequent application, a coatings system becomes less and less permeable.
- Depending on the site, we recommend no more than 25-30 coats.



# Normal Vapor Transmission



# Excessive Vapor Transmission



# Relieving Pressure



You can relieve some of the vapor pressure by piercing any bubbles with a small push-pin or nail, but this may be a temporary solution. For significant vapor issues, the entire surface may need to be stripped.



# Methods of Stripping a Court

- Blade
- Grinding-Milling
- Sanding-Buffering
  - Sanding Machines
  - Stones
- Pressure Washing
- Other

# Methods of Stripping a Court Blades

- The US Open uses a custom-built blade that is mounted to the front a bobcat.
- The blade is inserted into the cushion and then the Bobcat is slowly moved forward across the surface.
- The stripped cushion is rolled-up, almost like a carpet.
- Pros
  - Very effective, clean surface
  - Machine does the work
- Cons
  - Time consuming
  - Must be warm









# Methods of Stripping a Court

## Grinding-Milling

- Specifics about Grinding
- Pros
  - Very effective, clean surface
  - You can manage depth of milling
  - Machine does the work
  - Can also be used on high spots and around net posts
- Cons
  - Labor intensive
  - Blades need to be replaced.



# Methods of Stripping a Court Grinding



# Methods of Stripping a Court Grinding



# Methods of Stripping a Court Grinding





# Methods of Stripping a Court Sanding

- Specifics about Sanding
- Pros
  - Sanding machines easy to acquire
  - Machine does the work
  - Can knock off the "nubs" on cushion courts
- Cons
  - Labor intensive
  - Replace the pads

# Methods of Stripping a Court Sanding



# Methods of Stripping a Court Pressure Washing

- Specifics about Pressure Washing
- Pros
  - Less expensive
  - Everyone has a pressure washer
- Cons
  - Extremely Labor Intensive
  - Time consuming
  - Requires significant psi
  - Not as effective



# Methods of Stripping a Court

## Pressure Washing



# Methods of Stripping a Court

## Other

- Burning/blowtorch
- Mason stones/manual
- Scrapers/manual

# Other Uses for Equipment

- Routing cracks
- Sanding Patches
- Sanding around crack repair systems
- Grinding or sanding high spots
- Grinding or sanding footings around net posts, fence posts and lighting



# Routing Out Cracks

- Opening up the cracks on asphalt provides a better sub base.
- Simply filling over a hairline crack creates more problems down the road, speed bumps if not properly milled or buffed and just doesn't fill the crack properly.
- You must get to the root of the problem and find the bottom of the crack. Routing the crack or opening the area allows you to fill the crack from the bottom up.
- Routing can help clear out vegetation in a crack.

# Routing Machines





# Routing Machines





# Sanding Patches



# Sanding For Crack Repair Systems



# Separate Yourself from the Pretenders

Adding these items to bid specifications can sometimes separate you from your competitors.

Scarifying the old coatings is not something a lot of contractors have the ability to do. You don't see many people routing out the cracks and properly filling them.

When you can educate the customer on why this is necessary, you are separating yourself from your competitor and doing a better job for the owner.



QUESTIONS?