

L'esprit Terre Battue "the spirit of clay"

The ultimate traditional clay court alternative

WHAT IS CLASSIC CLAY?

Classic Clay is quite simply a revolution in the clay court world and resulted from lateral thinking and many years of testing and development.

The Classic Clay tennis surface 'system' incorporates patented technology to achieve **extremely low maintenance**, world-class clay surface **playable in wet and dry** weather conditions.

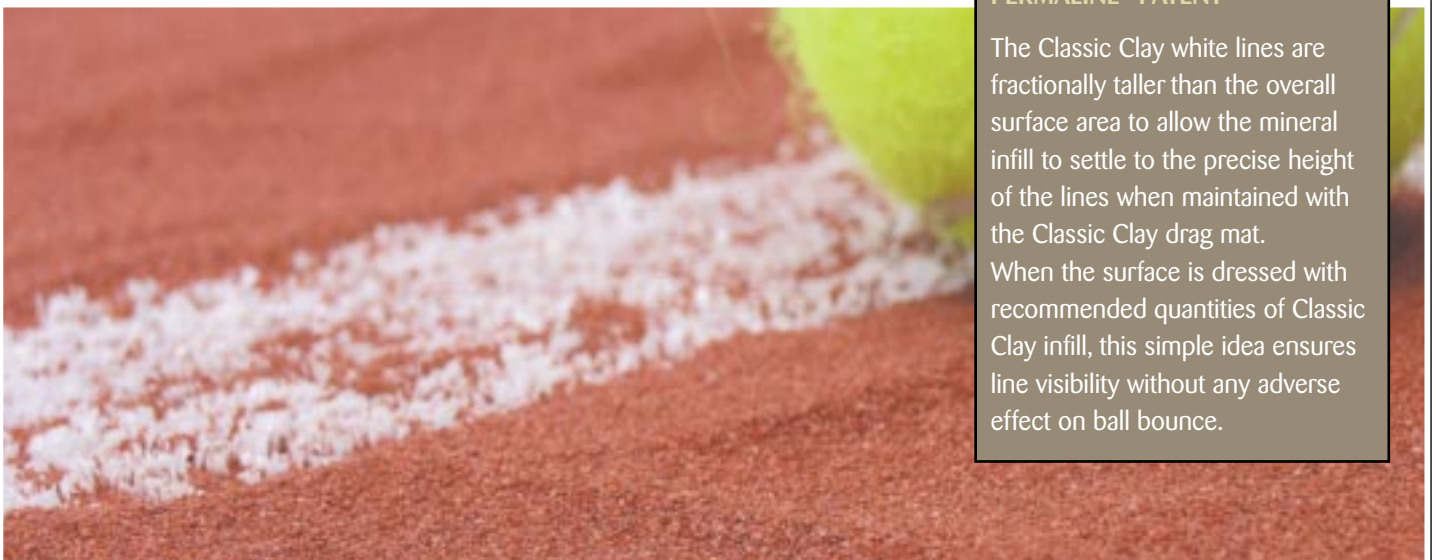
The playing surface retains all the attributes of a traditional clay court and introduces numerous unique benefits. The surface **plays** like clay, **slides** like clay, has **consistent ball bounce** characteristics and **looks exactly like** a perfectly prepared clay court with virtually **NO maintenance**.

The component primarily responsible for the 'clay-like' character of the Classic Clay system is the **uniquely developed mineral infill**. It is commercially sieved, colour pigmented and furnace fired to achieve a **consistent size, shape** and an enamel like coating. The coating prevents the surface from binding or compacting and contributes to the **superior drainage** qualities of the Classic Clay system.

The complete court system is **easily installed, easy to maintain**, very **cost effective** and **environmentally friendly**. It is suitable for any upgrade, rejuvenation or new court construction.

If you are considering a **long lasting** and **low maintenance** clay court for your club, resort or home, the Classic Clay surface is increasingly becoming the first choice of professionals and enthusiasts around the world.

Classic Clay



INNOVATION : PERMALINE® PATENT

The Classic Clay white lines are fractionally taller than the overall surface area to allow the mineral infill to settle to the precise height of the lines when maintained with the Classic Clay drag mat.

When the surface is dressed with recommended quantities of Classic Clay infill, this simple idea ensures line visibility without any adverse effect on ball bounce.

IN-TUFTED LINES AND MINERAL INFILL

Benefits snapshot

Looks and plays exactly like a true clay court.

1 Ball bounce like clay	2 Slides like clay	3 Improved foot traction
4 Permanent inbuilt lines	5 No frost heave	6 No rolling or watering
7 Low odour installation	8 Plays wet and dry	9 Playable all year round
10 Shock absorbent	11 Suitable indoor & outdoor	12 Absorbs noise indoors
13 Installs on most courts	14 Super rapid drainage	15 Virtually no dust
ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY		

17 important Classic Clay benefits for the club

1.

■ Looks like a professional 'watered' clay court.

Nothing is more attractive to existing and potential members than perfectly groomed, watered and competition ready courts. The Classic Clay system requires no watering but the courts appear to be 'moistened' due to the colour pigments used in the treatment of the mineral infill. The colour remains consistent across the entire surface and is UV treated and fade resistant.

2.

■ Zero water usage.

Water is expensive, not getting cheaper and a serious consideration with ALL traditional and many 'artificial' clay courts.

The global water crisis is nothing new and the greatest threat to traditional clay courts in drier regions. Many international regions impose restrictions and serious fines on the misuse of water. Classic Clay is one of the ONLY clay courts that requires no water at all.

3.

■ Suitable for indoor installation.

Classic Clay is perfect for indoor installations, particularly in colder climates for a host of reasons. The courts do not require excessive earth works and can be laid on approved existing hard sub-surfaces. The courts do not require water and thus will not cause wet areas inside. There is no dust created by a Classic Clay court as the mineral infill is a consistent sized sand and is not small enough to be airborne.

4.

■ Absorbs ball and play noise.

When installed indoors, the courts exhibit attractive sound absorption benefits. Sound is actually dampened, creating a more peaceful environment, as opposed to the echoing of reflective hard court surfaces. This is particularly attractive for coaching as instructions can be heard easily without excessive ambient distraction.

5.

■ Zero dust on courts and in amenities.

The mineral infill is a consistent sized sand and is not small enough to be airborne. This eliminates dust and discolouration of shoes, clothes and club or home amenities. Neighbours of many club installations have applauded the Classic Clay choice and the reduction of undesired dust and dirt being blown from courts in windy conditions.

6.

■ Low maintenance.

Another primary benefit of the Classic Clay system is the extremely low maintenance. The only requirement is to 'bag' or 'drag mat' the court after heavy usage and should become court etiquette. This will ensure the surface has the correct distribution of infill. Foreign debris such as leaves, twigs and rubbish should be sifted from the infill and removed.

7.

■ Does not suffer frost heave in cold climates.

The Classic Clay surface will not suffer frost heave. The porous nature of the Classic Clay courts can be installed on a number of bases but all must comply with specific structural tolerance guidelines encompassing drainage, subsurface compaction and stability.

8.

■ Permanent in-tufted lines.

The Classic Clay system is one of the very few to insist on permanent 'factory inbuilt' lines for long wearing quality. Other surfaces often reduce costs by adding lines during the installation only to become the 'Achilles heel' or weakest point in the surface.

Inbuilt lines are comprised of the same material as the binder layer, providing a consistent ball bounce as opposed to the 'skidding' experienced with line tapes and other systems.

9.

■ Raised court lines stay visible [Permaline® exclusive to Classic Clay]

The Classic Clay system incorporates the Permaline® patented raised lines. The white court lines are fractionally raised above the binder surface to act as a levelling guide for the mineral infill and remain visible when groomed.

10.

■ Increased playtime due to better drainage and rapid dry characteristics.

Classic Clay courts are the fastest drying clay courts in the market. Play in most cases resumes immediately after a rain shower. Damp weather and continual rain will not stop play, thus vastly increasing total court time in a season.

11.

■ Potential to increase court revenue.

In most cases, the mere appearance of the Classic Clay courts at clubs will attract members. Many clubs have reported an increase in membership and in some cases an increase in fees due to the 'professional' appearance of the courts. The season for outdoor play can be extended by opening courts earlier and closing them later each season.

12.

■ Cost effective alternative to traditional clay construction.

The new construction of traditional clay courts is fast becoming an unviable consideration for many reasons. Above any maintenance and water restrictions, quality construction is difficult to obtain. The total investment for a Classic Clay system is a fraction of a traditional clay court and has many advantages as outlined.

13.

■ Cost effective alternative to imperfect existing hard courts.

Substandard or neglected hard courts are potentially dangerous, brutal on player bodies and not an attractive proposition for play. The Classic Clay system has the ability to install right over a damaged or cracked hard court enabling very simple and easy rejuvenation or upgrading of a court surface.

14.

■ Comprehensive owners manual provided.

Each Classic Clay system comes with a leather bound owner's manual with maintenance instructions, warranty details, a history of the development company and a host of interesting reading.

15.

■ Online support.

The Classic Clay team regard all owners of the system as a distinguished group and is pleased to discuss all aspects of the court, its playability, characteristics and maintenance at any time. Simply visit our website www.classicclay.com and email the relevant address to send your comments, suggestions or questions.

16.

■ Excellent initiation for children and juniors to clay court play.

Europe has a high penetration of clay courts and as such players are comfortable with a variety of surfaces and playing styles. One can argue this exposure enhances overall skill levels. Classic Clay is a perfect surface in regions where traditional clay courts are not as prevalent to initiate children and juniors to international standards.

17.

■ Familiarity for European residents and tourists.

Europeans living and visiting abroad are attracted to Classic Clay courts as they are comfortable and familiar with the playing style and appearance of the courts. It is a wonderful point of difference in regions populated or frequented by Europeans such as holiday resorts and hotels.

Snapshot comparison table

Classic Clay and other recognised surfaces.

	Subsurface		Installation				Maintenance							Player experience							
	Can be installed on porous base*	Can be installed on non porous base*	Supplied in kit form	Installs in under 2 days	Chemical fumes hazard	Immediate play after installation	Rapid vertical drainage	Requires surface rolling	Lines need to be swept	Susceptible to frost heave	Resurface within 3 years	Easy drag mat grooming	Court requires water	Players can slide on surface	Low body stress	Court surface retains heat	Plays wet & dry	Even ball bounce	Indoor installation absorbs noise	Ideal training surface	Championship surface
Traditional clay/ Fast Dry								■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				■	■
Classic Clay	■	■	■	■		■	■					■		■	■		■	■	■	■	
Synthetic grass court	■	■	■	■		■	■								■		■	■	■		
Hard court	■	■			■						■					■		■			■
Cushioned hard court	■	■			■						■				■	■		■			■

* Porous and non porous bases can include asphalt, concrete and macadam.

Martha's Vineyard Cape Cod USA

"After a long hard winter it did not appear I had to do anything. I simply brushed the surface and was ready to go. I assumed much of the surface would have washed away, but that did not happen."

Private Residence

What are the benefits of Classic Clay for the player?

1.

■ Attractive and professional appearance.

There has been no argument with any installation around the world... Classic Clay courts look absolutely fantastic with very little effort. Simple 'bagging' or 'drag mat grooming' will achieve a world class appearance, reveal white lines and provide a surface ready for positive ball marks every time.

2.

■ Ball bounces like a traditional clay court.

Most agree the clay game is dramatically different to a grass or hard court style. Topspin, backspin and sliding serves all have vastly different outcomes on a clay surface. The Classic Clay surface ensures the ball will stay low on backspin shots, kick on topspin and deflect with slice just like a traditional clay court.

3.

■ Slides like a traditional clay court.

The foot 'slide' character of the playing style on clay is emulated accurately and remains consistent across the entire surface, including the lines. There are no deviations, soft spots, or hard areas as experienced with a natural clay court.

4.

■ Less heat retention underfoot in hot regions.

Hard and compacted earth exposed to the sun in hot regions will retain enormous amounts of ambient heat. This is radiated underfoot throughout the day and contributes to court surface temperatures becoming raised above atmospheric temperatures.

The Classic Clay surface is designed to remain a loose and free surface with a degree of air and space in the structure. This acts as a natural insulation type layer and is noticeably cooler underfoot than a traditional clay or hard court.

5.

■ Easier on the body than traditional clay courts.

The Classic Clay system has a shock absorbing quality that is very popular with veteran players, coaches and anyone spending a great deal of time on court. Previously retired veteran players are actually returning to the Classic Clay courts and enjoying tennis again for this very reason.

6.

■ Drastically reduced soil on clothing, footwear and tennis balls.

The Classic Clay mineral infill is a consistent micron size and free of dust particles. Therefore clothing, shoes and tennis balls remain much cleaner than on a regular clay court.

Traditional clay in poor weather



How does the installation process work?

Installation of the Classic Clay system is undertaken by approved installers. The sub-surface should first be assessed for compatibility and once approved installation should take no longer than 3 working days per court and can be played on immediately.

The polypropylene 'binder' layer is delivered in rolls and is quite literally unrolled, joined in sections on the subsurface and glued in place. The mineral infill is then distributed across the court and swept into the 'binder' to finish.

Some settling of the mineral infill is to be expected in the initial months of play and will need topping up till completely worked into the 'binder' layer.

Technical information

There are 2 components to the Classic Clay system and one simply acts as a specialised 'binder' for the other.

CLASSIC CLAY COMPONENT 1.

The primary focus of the Classic Clay system is the mineral infill or 'artificial clay' covering the entire surface area and is responsible for the clay-like characteristics. Due to the nature of the enamel like coating, the Classic Clay mineral infill requires a specialised 'binding' layer to contain and hold the infill at a particular depth and in one place. Without the 'binder' layer, the infill would simply wash and blow away like a traditional clay court.

CLASSIC CLAY COMPONENT 2.

The 'binder' layer is manufactured borrowing many elements from artificial grass production however similarities cease early in the production phase. In rough terms, the Classic Clay polypropylene fibre 'binder' layer is stiffer, shorter and more loosely spaced than any artificial grass for the unique application of the technology. It has been fine tuned over time in synergy with the mineral infill size and shape to result in the perfect balance and 'clay' character of the playing surface.

COMPONENT 1

MINERAL INFILL

COMPONENT 2

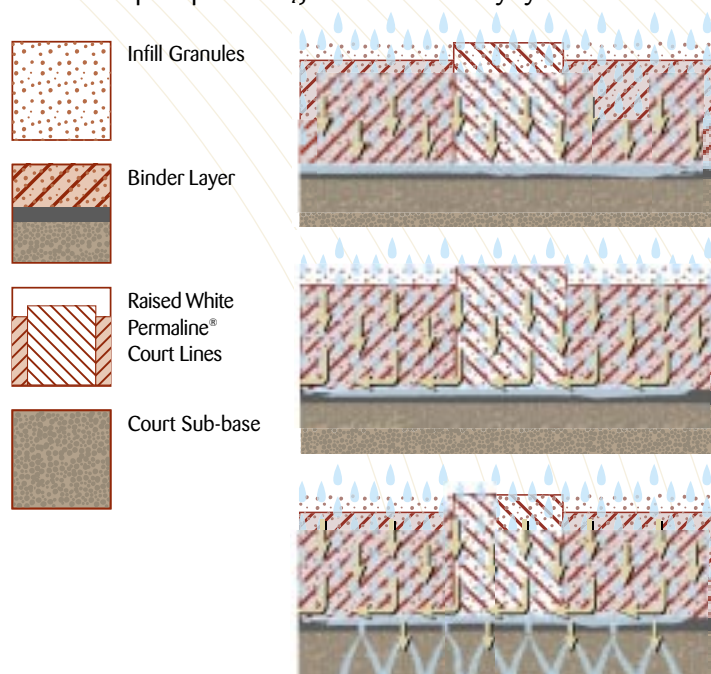
BINDER



RAISED PERMALINE® LINES

SUPERIOR DRAINAGE ACTION.

The unique rapid drainage of the Classic Clay system is due to both **vertical** and **lateral** drainage design.



Vertical drainage

Surface rainwater quickly passes through the loose 'enamel like' mineral infill and into the 'binder' layer, leaving the court surface playable and virtually dry to touch.

Vertical and lateral drainage

Court gradient ensures the natural run off of water in the binder layer to drainage points of the court.

Double vertical and lateral drainage

If the sub-base is a stable porous mass, Classic Clay can also be installed as a perforated system, further enhancing the vertical drainage characteristics of the court.

SUBSURFACE AND BASE CONSTRUCTION GUIDELINES.

In all cases the quality of the earth mass under the prepared base must have sufficient density to prevent subsidence and sufficient moisture to allow optimum compaction and minimise heaving.

Where subsurface water is encountered, interception drains must be installed to prevent degradation of the sub-grade.

- Surface drainage must be in one plane.
- The plane is sloped to provide for drainage.
- Drainage slope: 0.8% to 1.0 % across, along or diagonally over the entire surface.

Essential surface tolerance:

- No depression greater than 4mm under a 3m straight edge.
- No depression greater than 2mm under a 0.3m straight edge.
- If the court is for tournament play then it is advisable to reduce these tolerances by 1mm.

The United States tennis Court and Track Builders Association have developed 'Tennis Court Construction Guidelines' available online at www.ustctba.com

Maintaining your Classic Clay court

The court will **NEVER** need watering, rolling of any kind, or annual line maintenance.

One of the great advantages of Classic Clay is the VERY low maintenance of the court. Not only does this **save precious hours** in labour but also **saves money** and **extends court time**.

The fibres of the infill binder layer **must** remain unseen at all times. This is to ensure the longevity of the product and the consistency of the surface 'sliding' character. Club owners and managers should also insist players 'bag' or 'drag groom' the court after each set. This is to level the infill, inhibit infill drift and generally keep the appearance of the surface play ready. Owners should also pay attention to remove foreign debris and matter such as leaves, twigs and general rubbish so as not to cause the mineral infill to bind and compact.

Maintenance and grooming guidelines are provided in the Classic Clay, owner's manual. A third party periodic maintenance contract is highly advised and in some regions a requirement of the Classic Clay warranty conditions. Please ask your local installer for more information regarding this important issue.

Classic Clay testing and approvals



CENTRE for SPORTS TECHNOLOGY (CST)

| International Tennis Federation (ITF)

Court Surface Classification Scheme.

Medium – medium/fast

Test code: ITF CS/01/01-02-006

Type of test: Laboratory

Brand name: Classic Clay

Test Laboratory: Centre for Sports Technology.
Derbyshire, England.

ACOUSTO-SCAN | Technical development & testing

Dr J.J. Dunlop | Executive Director

12th October 1998.

Ball rebound: 96% reference to concrete

Surface spin: 113% reference to concrete

Underfoot friction: 0.45

Ball rebound and surface spin tests were carried out to Australian Standards AS 2983.1 and AS 2983.3, and the underfoot friction to the Netherlands Standards NSF 5.

The underfoot friction characteristics is similar to that of a clay court allowing the players to have the options for sliding during stretches to return balls.

AWTA | Textile testing

Abrasion Resistance: OSCILLATORY CYLINDER METHOD.

Tension load: 41 lb

Compression Load: 31 lb Weight Loss at 1000 cycles 0.9 gms

Abradant: Grade OMERY Weight loss at 20000 cycles 1.5 gms

Gormark template used.

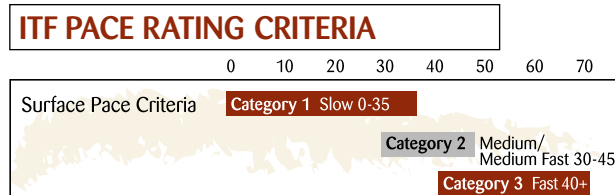
Abradant changed every 10,000 cycles.

PROFESSOR ROD CROSS | Physics Department.

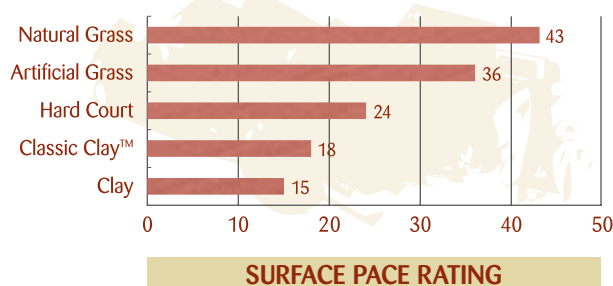
University of NSW

Professor Rod Cross is globally recognised in the technical tennis industry and has conducted many official and unofficial tests with the Classic Clay development team.

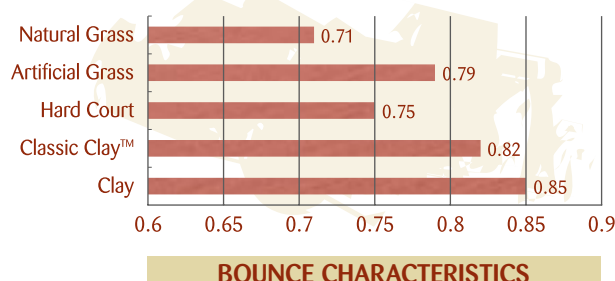
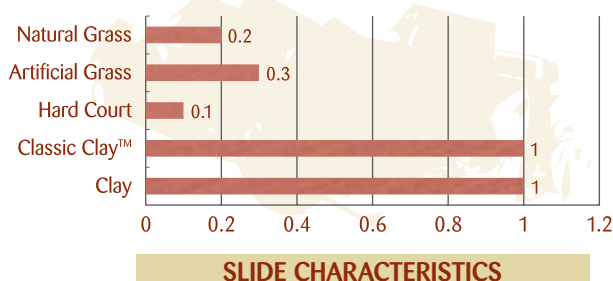
Data from his many tests have been represented below.



Court comparison table



Data compiled from independent testing with Professor Rod Cross.



International competitions on Classic Clay

ATP Senior Tour Sydney

ATP Senior Tour Melbourne

ATP Senior Tour Chicago [pictured]

Australian Juniors Tournament

Professional feedback

Richard Fromberg, coach of the Australian Institute of Sport's highly successful men's and women's Tennis Program that is responsible for players such as Lleyton Hewitt, Mark Philippoussis, Todd Woodbridge, Andrew Ilie, Nicole Pratt, Alicia Molik, Evie Dominikovic and Ben and Annabel Ellwood.

"Classic Clay courts play just like competition clay courts around the world. The slide and slower speed of the court is great for teaching, coaching and obviously the lower maintenance is a huge benefit. I recommend anyone considering a surface definitely put Classic Clay on the top of the list. A world class court for all levels of tennis."

Richard Fromberg, holds an Australian record for being ranked in the top 100 players in the world for 11 consecutive years, played Davis Cup for Australia from 1990 holding an impressive 11-4 win/loss record (10-4 singles, 1-0 doubles) and has defeated Thomas Enqvist, Nicolas Pietrangeli, Marat Safin and Juan Carlos Ferrero in his lengthy career. With a career high world ranking of 23, Fromberg won four ATP career titles since turning professional in 1988, was a finalist on seven other occasions.

Richard Fromberg Photo. Roland Garros '99. Credit © Tennis Australia. Photographer Roger Gould.





Frequently asked questions

HOW LONG HAS CLASSIC CLAY BEEN INSTALLED?

The very first Classic Clay court was installed in Victoria, Australia over 8 years ago. The region was chosen due to its climate and court use. The court endures both high temperatures and dry conditions in summer months and cold very wet conditions in the winter. The court has never been repaired or had any reported complaints and is still used heavily today.

WHAT SUB-SURFACES CAN CLASSIC CLAY BE INSTALLED ON?

The Classic Clay system was developed as a solution for 2 categories of court application.



1. As a clay surface over existing or newly constructed porous or non-porous sub base i.e. concrete, bitumen, Macadam, asphalt, painted hard court or equivalent materials.



2. As a surface conversion for existing clay courts.

Category 2 requires a degree of surface assessment, testing, preparation and binding before the Classic Clay surface can be installed. Further information can be gained by contacting the Classic Clay representative in your area or directing your enquiry to the international team at info@classicclay.com.

HOW LONG DOES AN INSTALLATION TAKE?

If the sub-surface is prepared to suggested guidelines, installing one complete court should take no longer than three working days for an experienced team of tradesmen. Once complete, the court is ready for immediate play.

HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PROBLEMS WITH CLASSIC CLAY?

There have been no reported problems with the Classic Clay surface in the history of the product in either commercial or residential applications. Subsurface movement or saturation can cause the play surface to be affected, as with any court. The advantage of the Classic Clay system is the ability to simply roll back the area affected, repair the subsurface and simply reposition the playing surface when the subsurface repairs are satisfactory. This is an extremely cost effective means to repair a clay court.

NOTE: A small amount of mineral infill (clay) settling is to be expected as the particles work into the 'binder' pile and will require a small top dressing after installation in most cases. This settling will occur after initial watering or the first significant rainfall.

WHERE WAS CLASSIC CLAY DEVELOPED?

Classic Clay was first developed in Australia over a 6 year research and development process. Much of the ongoing development has resulted over many years of international collaboration and experience gained via hundreds of installations.

HOW DOES THE CLUB/OWNER CONDUCT MAINTENANCE?

Maintaining a clay court has never been simpler. The importance of maintenance is to achieve even distribution of infill and extend the playing life of the product. The mineral infill (clay) should completely cover the 'binder' surface so as to conceal the polypropylene fibres. The slightly raised white lines will remain visible after using a drag mat. Please refer to page 7 for further information.

DOES A CLASSIC CLAY COURT NEED TO BE WATERED?

The surface will require no water for play or maintenance.

DOES THE CLASSIC CLAY SURFACE COMPACT OVER TIME?

Compaction over time, even with the heaviest use is virtually impossible. The mineral infill (clay) is processed in a furnace to achieve an enamel-like coating. This treatment prevents the separate rounded granules from joining together, so the surface remains consistent overtime and drains rapidly.

DOES THE MINERAL INFILL WASH AWAY?

The surface will not wash away in rainfall as the polypropylene binder layer is designed to stabilise the surface structure. A small amount of peripheral infill may collect at drainage points but can be recycled with the Classic Clay sieve and returned to the surface.

CAN THE SURFACE BLOW AWAY?

As with the previous answer, the polypropylene binder layer effectively holds the infill mass together. There is no dust present, so the surface will not displace unless subjected to extreme conditions.

WILL WEEDS, ALGAE OR MOSS GROW IN CLASSIC CLAY?

If recommended maintenance guidelines are followed the Classic Clay surface will be entirely covered by mineral infill, preventing algae and moss growth. Weeds may grow on outer perimeters due to the migration of external earth. It is difficult for any vegetation to establish in the mineral infill as it designed to stay separated and loose.

HOW LONG DOES THE CLASSIC CLAY SURFACE LAST?

The lifetime of the surface will vary depending on climate, usage and maintenance.

In most global regions, the warranty provided with the Classic Clay surface is valid for 1 year initially and is extended to 7 full years with annual maintenance contracts. As mentioned previously, the maintenance focuses primarily on ensuring the mineral infill is kept at correct levels. This serves 2 purposes.



A. The court is designed to slide and react like a clay court and is only possible with the correct levels of infill.



B. Protection of the 'binder' layer fibres. If the court is used with the fibres exposed, damage and permanent bending of the fibre tips can be expected. This will cause the fibre base to compact, harden, lose drainage quality and affect the slide consistency.

With correct maintenance, the Classic Clay system could last as long as 15-20 years as is expected with other products from the same manufacturer.

Club feedback

STADE POITEVIN TENNIS CLUB. FRANCE.

"I have been a member for 10 years and it's the first time I've seen such unanimity among club members for the exceptional comfort of this surface. Some club members have resumed this sport after having abandoning it due to body trauma on hard surfaces. We have noted an increase in time these courts are being used particularly in winter."

Jean-Paul Orillard. Club President.

THE BOULDERS RESORT & GOLDEN DOOR SPA, ARIZONA USA

"As the Director of Tennis for a five star resort as well as a club I was looking for an all-around surface; easier on the body, medium speed playing characteristics, fun and of course, low-maintenance. I found such a product in Classic Clay.

I teach on the Classic Clay whenever possible as well as play on it when I am looking for a good hit and work-out. My feet, ankles and knees always feel better during and after play on the Classic Clay. We have very positive feed-back from our members and guests who play on the Classic Clay courts."

Dale Light. Director of Tennis (USPTA Professional)

BEENLEIGH TENNIS CLUB. Australia.

"I recently played in the Australian Veterans Tennis Championships and one of our matches was at Beenleigh where I played for the first time on your Classic Clay surface. I was very impressed and so was everyone else. I feel there is enormous potential for this surface."

John Decker. Over 55's Australian veterans team.

BAIRNSDALE TENNIS CLUB. Australia - 21st July, 2002.

It is with great pleasure that would like to inform you that our members have been so impressed with the current installation of eight Classic Clay courts that they have pushed for us to upgrade our complex to one which consists of ENTIRELY Classic Clay. At the present we have 18 courts, ten of which are 5 year old Sand Filled Artificial Grass and eight of which are two year old Classic Clay. Our members are so happy with Classic Clay, that they insist on the playing surface Classic Clay. It is obvious that Classic Clay must be something special for the club such as ours to remove excellent existing courts and replace them with this product, however that is exactly what they are and what we have done. Congratulations on designing, creating and producing an Australian product on outstanding quality. We wish you every success for the future; your product deserves it.

Jeff Steedman [President]

TRYALL CLUB

"Red Classic Clay is ten times easier on the body than a hard court. Our guests, especially those with back and knee ailment, really appreciate that. And so do I, since I can be on court 8-10 hours a day during the busy season".

Richard Ferdinand. Chairman/Founder - Caribbean Tennis Professionals (CTP). USPTA/USPTR Professional. Former Davis Cup Captain/Coach Trinidad & Tobago. Board member - International Tennis Hall of Fame.



The USTC & TBA WINNER

Best Residential Tennis Court

New England 2003

The USTC & TBA WINNER

Best Indoor Facility

**Cherry Hill Racket Club
New Jersey, USA
6 Classic Clay courts**

