



COPELAND CORNER

Welcome to Copeland Corner, a new feature with our official sponsor, Copeland Coating Co., Inc. Copeland, whose roots date back to 1945, both manufactures and installs court surfaces. As a one-stop shop, they are uniquely positioned to help tennis facilities looking for affordable ways to renovate their courts. In this installment, we talk with Michael Edgerton, a senior project manager with Copeland and a Certified Tennis Court Builder.



Q&A with Michael Edgerton

Certified Tennis Court Builder with Copeland Coating Co., Inc.

Q: You are one of two Certified Tennis Court Builders with Copeland Coating. What is a Certified Tennis Court Builder? What did you have to do to get that certification?

A: The Certified Tennis Court Builder program was developed by the American Sports Builders Association (ASBA) to help raise professional standards and improve the practice of tennis court construction. To become a CTCB, you need to pass a comprehensive exam on tennis court construction and maintenance, and also fulfill specific standards of experience in the day-to-day process of court construction.

Q: Copeland Coating Co. uses its own Action-Pave coating to surface tennis courts. What is the coating made of? How does the coating affect match play?

A: Our Action Pave Tennis Court Surfaces are 100% acrylic emulsions, mineral fillers, and special reinforcing pigments that are mixed with pure silica sand. These surfaces provide added durability and protect the new surface against the sun's damaging ultraviolet rays. The coatings, when mixed with the specific amounts of silica sand, create the proper surface texture, which affects the speed of play. Generally, acrylic color coating systems are rated at a medium to medium-fast pace.

Q: How does Copeland's coating compare with others on the market? Why should someone choose Copeland over other companies?

A: Our Action Pave Acrylic Systems are equal in comparison to any of the other better known brand-name systems on the market. The system is only as good as the contractor that is installing it. Copeland Coating Co. is an anomaly in the athletic surfacing industry, as we are both a manufacturer and an installer of our own products. Our years of experience in the industry and our attention to customer service and quality make us very knowledgeable and a valuable source of information for any new customer.

Q: How is a coating installed? How long does it take?

A: Tennis court coatings are mixed and applied by hand with rubber squeegees in multiple layers. The tennis lines are laid out with a special line-stripping machine and then painted by hand. Generally, the resurfacing of one single court could take three to five days to complete, depending on the specifications and weather conditions.

Q: What are some of the biggest problems seen in coatings that are poorly installed?

A: Some of the biggest problems seen in the

coatings when improperly installed are bubbles in the paint, or peeling of the new surface due to poor bonding. Also, the surface could show ridges, drips, tool marks, footprints, and bucket marks due to poor workmanship. Over-diluting the products will cause the finished surface to look uneven and wear out prematurely.

Q: How often should a tennis court be resurfaced? What happens if it is not resurfaced?

A: It depends how much the court is used. Generally, a public tennis court should be resurfaced every three to five years and a private court should be resurfaced every five to seven years. If a court is not resurfaced, the surface will fade and show signs of wear, mainly at the base and service lines.

Q: If someone is looking to build new courts, what steps do they need to take first? Can you help them with the process?

A: The first step in building a new tennis court is to contact your town building department to see if you have the proper space and zoning for a new court. Second, you should contact either an architect or a tennis court contractor that specializes in this type of construction to help design the project. As a CTCB, I would be happy to guide any potential customers in this process to get them started in the right direction.

Q: The USTA's new 10 and Under Tennis initiative calls for smaller courts to introduce children to the sport. Are you able to create those lines for 10 and Under Tennis on an existing court? How do they look?

A: Copeland Coating Co. is able to design, lay out, and install the new QuickStart lines. These lines can be installed on any existing regulation sized tennis court with minimum impact to the play of the adult tennis game. They have a smaller width and a darker color, which helps them blend into the court surface. ●



Did you know the average public tennis court needs to be resurfaced every five to seven years? Don't wait. Call today! **Contact Copeland Coating at (800) 303-4219 to schedule a free consultation.** Don't forget to mention that you read about Copeland in USTA Magazine. www.copelandcoating.com www.eastern.usta.com