

# CONICA

CLEANING GUIDE

# PLAYGROUND SURFACING



### Disclaimer.

All CONICA Ltd. products and systems are designed to deliver exceptional performance and durability. Failure to follow these guidelines could adversely affect your safety surface, resulting in a deterioration in aesthetics, accelerated wear or even safety surface failure.

CONICA Ltd. cannot be held responsible for loss, or damage resulting from a failure to follow these guidelines. The information in this document has been provided in good faith and is believed to be correct.

This version dated 08/03/22 supersedes all previous versions.

### Cleaning Guidance.

There is no such thing as a maintenance free surface, all safety surface installations will require some degree of routine maintenance throughout its life. CONICA Ltd. recommends a regular planned maintenance and cleaning schedule for all installations. This will prolong the life of the safety surface and maintain its aesthetic appearance, whilst also reducing the risk of slips, trips and falls.

### General cleanliness.

The top wearing layer will become contaminated with dirt from children's shoes, wind-blown dust, leave debris and various contaminants such as chewing gum, soft drinks, etc. The most effective method of cleaning is by use of a jet wash, though chewing gum is best dealt with by using a freezing spray to embrittle the gum and make it easier to remove. All litter, leaves and surface debris should be removed weekly using a leaf blower and sweeping brush. Accelerated wear may occur if this is not carried out.

CONICA Ltd.'s guidance when jet washing is to have the jet / rotary head no closer than 25mm from the surface and an angle of 45°. The max pressure should be no more than 2000 psi. Before jet washing CONICA Ltd. recommends that the surface integrity is assessed; to ensure it is free from cracks, soft spots and any damage before proceeding. If any repairs are required, it is recommended that these are carried out prior to jet washing.

If the top wearing layer is not cleaned regularly, slip resistance will be impaired. This is especially the case during winter months when wet conditions, in combination with algae and plant debris, can create a slippery film.

### Moss and Algae.

In certain situations, and in some seasons, algae or moss can become established on the surface. Since prevention is very much more effective than cure, it is important to treat the affected areas of the surface with a good proprietary moss killer and algicide at least once a year.

Moss is not usually found on the parts of the surface that are trafficked by play, and although it may not be essential to treat these areas it is still a wise precaution to do so. However, particular attention should be paid to the perimeter and other areas that are not trafficked, especially if they are shaded by walls or buildings, overhung by trees or are under equipment. Any good proprietary product should be satisfactory, provided it is not oil based.

Where moss becomes established, it should be treated immediately. The application being repeated after the dead spores are removed, until eradication is complete. The dead moss may be removed by using a jet wash.

It should be emphasised that moss is only a serious problem if it is allowed to become established.

### **Weeds.**

No matter how much care is taken, weeds may occasionally appear on the surface, usually as a result of windblown seeds. Small numbers of weeds can be removed by hand without damaging the surface. If the weeds are removed by hand, it is important to ensure that the full root of the weed is extracted, not broken off. Some weeds are more prolific if they are simply cut off at the surface level.

If the weeds are deep rooted, it is advisable to kill them using an appropriate weed killer.

Localised areas of weed infestation can be treated with domestic weed killers without causing damage to the top wearing layer. Oil based weed killers should not be used.

### **Winter care.**

During the colder winter months, the surface may be subjected to snow, ice and /or frost which usually melts as the temperatures rise.

To remove heavy falls of snow or significant ice, CONICA Ltd. recommends using Ice Melt, as it is non-abrasive and the least harmful option, both to the surface and the environment. Metal shovels or scrapers may damage the surface and should not be used. Rock salt should not be used as it can cause unsightly stains.

Once the winter passes CONICA Ltd. recommends sweeping the surface with a stiff bristled brush to remove any built-up residue then jet washing the surface to restore its water permeability and slip resistance.

Please note: whilst snow, ice and frost are not harmful, if the play area is used during the winter without being cleared, then injury may occur. Not only will the surface be harder and lose some of its shock absorbing performance, a user could slip or injure themselves in other ways.

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