



# TECHNICAL PAINT SERVICES

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PAINTING SQUASH COURTS

### Introduction

This document is designed to provide guidance with the painting of older squash court playing surfaces where evenness, hardness and durability are a requirement.

Good preparation will ensure the provision of a durable and long lasting surface that will stand up to the incessant pounding of the walls by the squash ball at significant velocities.

### General

An extremely tough and smooth plaster finish should be obtained to guarantee a long-term durable playing surface. The side walls, unless completely smooth, will create friction with the ball and the front wall, unless properly constructed, will quickly crack and crumble. Expert advice on painting these specialist plasters should always be sought as the filling of cracked or uneven new and old walls is rarely effective in the long term. However, proprietary fillers, preferably of the two-pack type, can be used for temporary repairs.

More contemporary construction materials such as *Armourcoat* and *Rebound* should not be painted and we recommend that the original installation company be contacted for maintenance advice specific to these materials.

Before painting new or repaired wall surfaces it is important to ensure that the plaster has been allowed to dry out fully as the application of an oil-based paint system on a surface which contains moisture is liable to bubble blister with the resultant flaking of the paint film. Surfaces to be painted should be thoroughly prepared.

England Squash advises that court floors should be unsealed to lessen the risk of slipperiness. Where floor treatment is required, this should be performed by a flooring contractor who has proven experience in treating squash court floors.

For wooden floors we recommend the use of Technical Paint Services product A30 Clear, as per the instructions in the relevant Technical Data Sheet.

### Choice of Finishing Paint

The use of emulsion and chlorinated rubber paints should be avoided where possible as these are highly thermoplastic and hold the ball, slowing play. Technical Paint Services A147 Squash Court Paint is specially formulated to offer maximum durability without affecting ball bounce or pace. However, being impervious to moisture, new wall surfaces must be completely dry before painting commences.

## **1) PAINTING OF NEWLY PLASTERED & RE-PLASTERED COURTS:**

### **Surface preparation**

Ensure surfaces are clean and dry. Sandpaper all wall surfaces to remove imperfections, nibs, cement splashes etc. and dust clean. To avoid contamination of the wet paint, all surface preparation and sweeping of the entire court to remove dust, should be performed before painting commences.

### **Specifications - Playing Surface**

#### **1st Coat:**

Apply (to dry wall) one coat of Technical Paint Services AS147 Primer. Ease with a little fresh water for rolling or brushing and to obtain good penetration. Allow 24 hours before recoating.

#### **2nd Coat:**

Apply one coat of Technical Paint Services A147 Squash Court Paint, thinning with Technical Paint Services UTR112 Thinners to ease brushing or rolling. Allow to dry for 24 hours @ 20C.

#### **3rd Coat:**

As for the second coat but no thinning is needed.

#### **“Red line” on walls and wooden floor**

For marking court walls, lightly abrade the surface with fine sandpaper, dust clean and apply two coats of Technical Paint Services A147 Squash Court Paint, colour RAL3020, allowing a minimum of 16 hours between coats.

For marking timber floors use Technical Paint Services A30 Floor Finish in colour RAL3020.

### **Recommencement of Play**

Due to the nature of the game, newly painted surfaces should be allowed to harden for seven days before commencing play.

## **2) REDECORATION OF EXISTING SQUASH COURTS:**

All loose and flaking paint on plastered surfaces must be completely removed. The surface below should be abraded to a firm base down to the original plaster where necessary. Sound surfaces should be washed with a detergent solution to remove dirt, grease deposits and ball marks - (complete removal of ball marks from the side walls may not be achieved). Rinse down walls with clean water and allow to dry thoroughly.

If the walls have been previously painted, care must be taken to ensure that the surface is thoroughly abraded to assist adhesion. All wall surfaces which have been repaired or re-plastered must be allowed to dry out thoroughly. Where the previous paint has been removed, uneven edges should be “feathered off”. Ensure that the entire court is swept clean immediately prior to painting to avoid contamination of wet paint.

### **Specifications - Playing Surface**

Patch prime bare plaster only with one coat of Technical Paint Services AS147 Primer, allowing to dry overnight. A second application is recommended on very porous surfaces.

**1st Coat:**

Apply one coat of Technical Paint Services A147 Squash Court Paint. Thin with Technical Paint Services UTR112 Thinners only if necessary to ease brushing or rolling. Allow to dry for 24 hours.

**2nd Coat:**

Apply a finishing coat of Technical Paint Services A147 Squash Court Paint as necessary. In certain circumstances the application of a third coat may be necessary.

**“Red line” on walls and wooden floor**

Lightly abrade the surface with fine sandpaper, dust clean and apply two coats of Technical Paint Services A147 Squash Court Paint, colour RAL3020, allowing a minimum of 16 hours between coats.

For marking timber floors use Technical Paint Services A30 Floor Finish in colour RAL3020.

**Recommencement of Play**

Due to the nature of the game, newly painted surfaces should be allowed to harden for seven days before commencing play.

**Please Note:**

England Squash is always available to assist with and advise on all aspects of squash court maintenance and repair.