



Icing over IceCourt

Mr. Tom Hendrix, manager of 'The Gardens Ice House' in Laurel, MD (near Washington DC) has given us a detailed report of his experience. He sounded ecstatic. Tom welcomes operators to call him to share his experience at 301 953-0100 extension 100. Here are a few tips for freezing:

- There is no need to prepare the cement surface. Just start freezing and sprinkle. There is no need to paint the ice since the light blue IceCourt shimmers through the ice, giving it a beautiful color. Therefore, after melting, there will be no messy paint and toxic waste.
- To make the dark blue lines used for ice hockey, simply use perforated paper and slightly adhere them to the IceCourt surface. Same with logos and signs.
- Begin to sprinkle evenly. Make sure there are no low spots where the water can accumulate, and lift the tiles (the tiles float on water). If there are low spots, put some weight on the court to prevent it from lifting (fill a few buckets of water and put them on the IceCourt). Continue to sprinkle with the usual procedure.
- You may drive the Zamboni over the ice as soon as the ice covers the IceCourt surface. The strong growth between the ice underneath the tiles and the ice above the tiles prevents the Ice from chipping after a blow with a hockey stick.
- The ice will quickly become and stay very hard. Check the hardness with the infra-red gun before it becomes brittle. You may have to reduce the compressor after a week, since the IceCourt somehow acts as an insulator (saves energy).
- When defrosting, be aware that it will take about two-three days for the ice to melt below the IceCourt, depending on humidity and temperature. Warm water and using large fans and leaf blowers will expedite the process.

Tom Hendrix told us his benefits of freezing the IceCourt, versus disassembling it:

- save about 140 man-hours disassembling and assembling the IceCourt
- no downtime
- no storage needed
- reduce the damage to IceCourt and save tiles when fitting again
- reduce compressor output by sofar 15% (he is now studying long-terms)
- very hard ice, very fast skating
- extremely low noise while skating
- no hassles with the EPA (Environment Protection Agency) when melting, because there is no toxic paint in the water.
- no negative aspects.

There are several facilities in Germany and Japan and that have left their IceCourt in place during the last few ice hockey seasons. Imagine it as working similar to your plastic ice trays in your freezer at home.