

Installing IceCourt

IceCourt is a suspended tile surface. The tiles are joined by loops and hooks, which snap together very easily. To ensure a trouble-free installation, certain guidelines must be observed.

Tiles:

An IceCourt rink is made up of tiles, each measuring 25cm (10"). These tiles are connected by a simple, but very precise interlocking mechanism, namely loops and hooks on each tile. Depending on the rink size, up to 28'800 tiles are so assembled, to make a very smooth, virtually seamless surface.

Assembly:

The tiles come pre-assembled on pallets, either 4x4 or 3x4 tiles. (see in the background) This ensures a fast assembly at the rink site. With 6 - 8 men, a regulation size floor can so be laid in six hours.



To assemble the tile slabs, they are laid on the floor; the seams with the hooks pointing into the loops. By gently stepping on the seams, starting at one corner, the hooks are pressed into the loops for a strong hold.

Do not use force! This will cause damage to the hooks and loops.

Expansion:

IceCourt is a plastic floor, which expands and contracts with temperature changes. A 200' (60 m) floor can expand 4" (10cm) on both lengthwise sides and half of that at the width, when the weather warms up 100°F (37°C).

Subsurface:

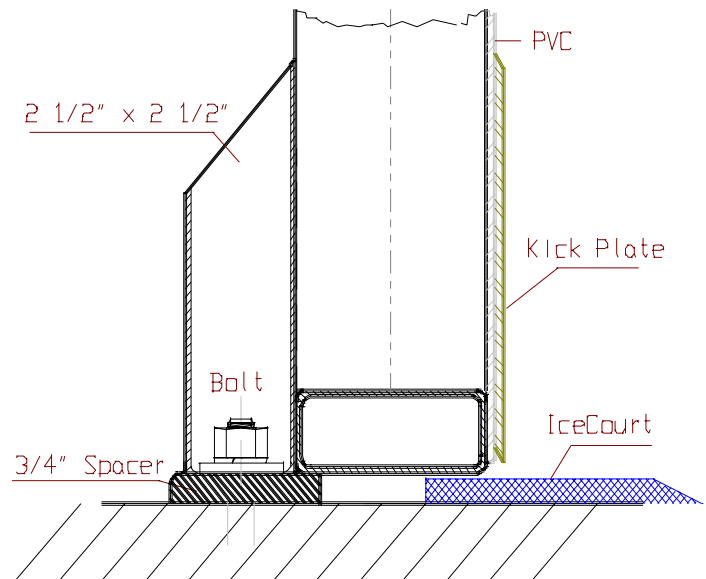
It is important that the surface of the substructure enables the IceCourt to expand and contract easily. For instance asphalt, being oil based and rough is inherently slippery and makes a very good subsurface, so does a rough cement finish. However, when IceCourt is placed on a smooth cement surface, this creates a big footprint with too much grip for the IceCourt to slide. If a plastic floor expands without being able to slide, it will start to buckle in many places. To prevent this, the smooth cement surface shall be coated with an acrylic-based paint. For short-term installations, a thin plastic sheet between the cement surface and the IceCourt will suffice.

IceCourt can be laid over structural cracks in the subsurface. Sharp cracks should be faceted or rounded so that the tiles don't catch when the floor expands and contracts.

Dasherboards:

To accommodate this expansion, purposely-designed dasherboards and support posts are usually raised between $\frac{5}{8}$ " - $\frac{3}{4}$ " (15-18mm), enabling the floor to float underneath.

In places where the dasherboards are already in place and cannot be raised, the IceCourt has to be custom fitted, by cutting the tiles around the edges of the rink. A gap of $1\frac{1}{2}$ " - 2" (3-5cm) between the IceCourt and the rink edge should be planned, enabling the IceCourt to expand when temperatures rise. During hot summer months, the IceCourt might expand all the way to the edges or board struts, and may need to be cut back further to prevent buckling. Preferably, install when the subsurface temperature is stable, preventing excess initial expansion of the IceCourt.



Expansion Tiles:

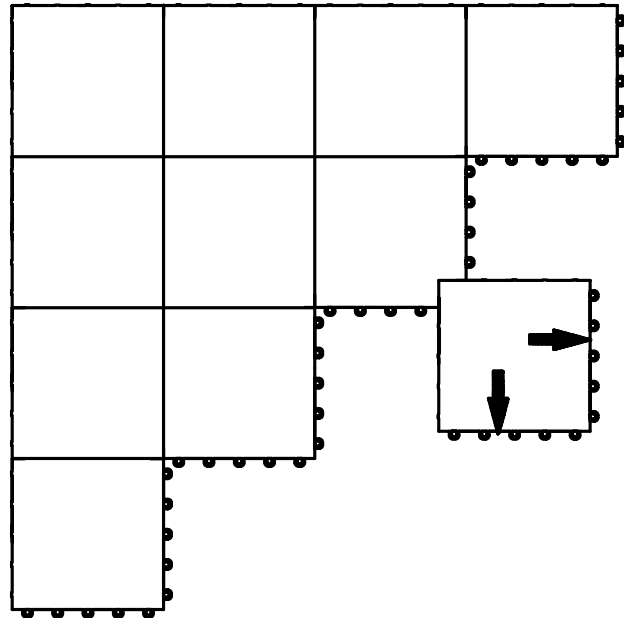
Outdoors, when the sun travels behind the dasher boards, it throws a shadow. The temperature difference between those tiles exposed to the sun and those in the shadow can be significant enough to create a large tension and possible splitting. Special tiles, which can slightly expand, are strategically placed around the shadow area, thus preventing stress.

Freezing:

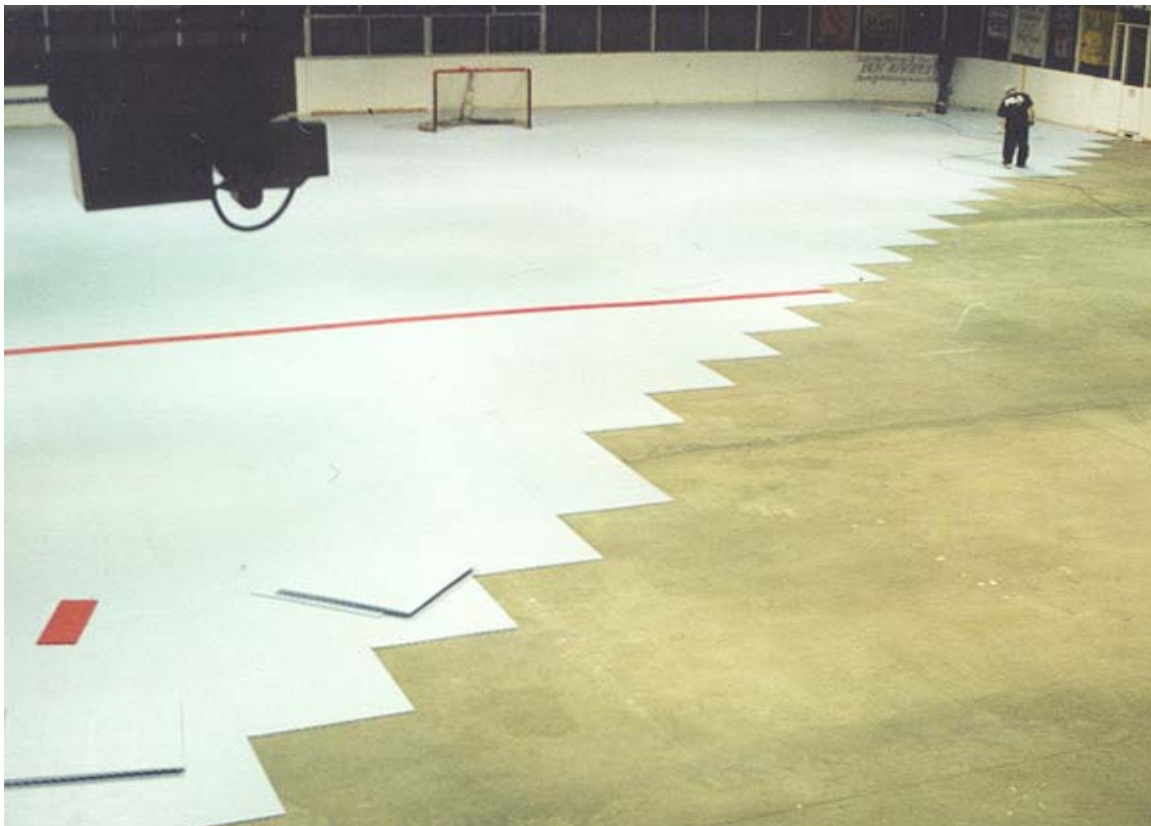
IceCourt can be left in place during winter, if the rink is frozen over for ice-skating. The tiles flood easily and the unique perforation allows the ice to create a strong structure between the lower and upper ice surfaces, preventing ice from flaking off the plastic surface when hit with a stick. IceCourt is lighter than water, which makes it float. Therefore, flood in two stages, first up to the IceCourt surface and let freeze; then flood again to the desired thickness of the ice. Note: expect two extra days to defrost the ice.

Installation:

Laying IceCourt tiles is similar to many other tiles surfaces, be they wood, ceramic or plastic. The best results are achieved when laid at a perfect 45° angle. This cancels out any tension building up.



Always start in one corner with the loops of the tiles facing to the right and down; or in other words pointing away from the corner. This allows the next panels to simply be laid on top of the exposed loops, and stepped upon for easy snapping together. Continue with one square meter slab to the right and then work yourself at a stepped 45° angle toward the bottom left. Then add another IceCourt slab at the bottom left and work yourself up again to the top right. Continue in this fashion all the way to the opposite corner.



Start out at a round, left-hand corner by placing a few tiles at a time in a rudimentary fashion lining up to the radius of the boards; the tiles will be cut and fit later on, so they don't have to be exact at first. After a corner has been built up at an angle of 45° to a size of about 10 x 10 yards (m), adjust this large slab so that the top and the side are precisely parallel to the straight rink boards. It will be virtually impossible to align the floor to the board at a later stage; the slab will become too heavy. If the dasher boards are not elevated to accommodate for floor expansion, allow for a 1 ¾" (2-4 cm) gap between the floor and the rink edge. The kick-plates will reduce this space ¼ inch.

Don't forget to start inserting the red tiles upon reaching the centerline.

Replacing Tiles:

Tiles are replaced in a matter of seconds. Insert a hook or screwdriver into a hole closest to the corner of the tile, which does not have loops and pull up.

Fitting:

After the IceCourt is laid out, one person will start cutting the tiles to fit the round corners and edges, and also the width of the rink. The best tool for cutting tiles is a table saw or a small circular saw. To fit the corner tiles, simply measure the left and right distances from the laid tiles to the rink edge. Draw a line on a single tile. If the dasher boards are not elevated for the floor to expand underneath, account for a gap of 1 ½" (2-4 cm) between the IceCourt and the rink board edge. Use the same method to cut the whole right side width of the floor.



Paintings and Markings:

It is highly recommended to tape the lines and circles with a strong red adhesive tape, which later can be easily replaced. Use Sports Flooring Marker Tape by Scotch/3M, No 471

This tape lasts about 18 months, except around the goal, and is applied using a taping machine.

If you chose to paint the goal lines, creases, circles and play-off points (if you are not using red tiles), as well as to paint letters and logos, the following procedure is necessary:

Simple Procedure:

- 1. Carefully clean areas around lines with lacquer thinner.**
- 2. Mask the lines with 3M automotive masking tape (does not leave residue).**
- 3. Using a paint roller, apply one layer of our one-part special paint.**

Note: No need to prime. Wait 36 hours for paint to cure. Lasts 5+ years.

NOTE: PRIMERS AND PAINTS ARE NOXIOUS. ALWAYS USE A CARTRIDGE RESPIRATOR WHEN HANDLING AND MAKE SURE NOBODY IS CLOSE BY.



CLEANING ICECOURT

Cleaning Machine:

IceCourt is cleaned once or twice a week with a common industrial vacuuming/scrubbing machine, such as offered in various sizes by *Advance-Nilfisk*, *NSS* and *Tennant*. Preferably, use their double vacuum option to clear all dust and debris. For outdoor facilities with a lot of dust and sand, it is recommended to use a commercial Billy-Goat vacuum or leaf blower, such as for cleaning parking lots.

Equipment:

1. 17"-20" automatic floor scrubber with solution control, squeegee, with drive pad holder (175 RPM) and possibly double vacuum option.
2. Box (5 each) 17", 19" or 20" extra soft CONTOUR scrubbers.
3. 4 ft dust mops and bucket

Maintenance Cleaning Products:

Use a PH+ neutral Citrus Detergent* to clean dust, dirt and films on the surface, leaving no slippery residue and improving grip. Dilution Rate: add 1 part detergent to 40 parts warm water.

Black scuffmarks, caused by skate-toes and black shoe soles are removed with lacquer thinner. Wipe off with cloth or buffer. When using scrubber, spray lacquer thinner undiluted on spots in front of path.

Procedure: Recommended daily:

Dust-mop with damp 4 ft mop in the evenings or mornings before opening the facility, using warm water and a small amount of vinegar. Wash the mop after each usage and hang to dry for next day. Remove tenacious black scuff marks from black soles and skate toes with common lacquer thinner.

Procedure: Recommended weekly:

1. Load up auto scrubber solution tank with hot water and add detergent* to proper 1 to 40 dilution.
2. Fill spray bottle with undiluted Lacquer Thinner, adjust to straight spray.
3. Attach CONTOUR soft pad to drive block of floor machine.
4. Prepare the auto scrubber by adjusting the detergent solution supply control to the very minimum. Lower the pad to the floor, turn on and lower the squeegee. Begin scrubbing the surface in a methodical manner: **start length-wise and finish up driving width-wise**. Spray all black scuffmarks with lacquer thinner directly in front of the auto scrubber. Plan to turn where the rinse bucket and wringer are stationed.
5. Have **someone follow you with the 4ft dust mop**, mopping up dirt residue
6. After cleaning, dump out the squeegeed solution, clean out filter assembly of scrubber, and put on charge for next time.
7. On heavily black scuff-marked areas, spray lacquer thinner directly onto the black marks in front of the scrubber. Do this in small areas, as lacquer thinner evaporates quickly. Gently scrub tenacious black scuffmark areas with a cloth.

To order Cleaning Material:

Lacquer & Epoxy Thinner can be bought at any paint supplier or Home Depot.
Recommended Detergent: 9960 from Tennant (order # 08690-5) 1800-553-8033
Extra soft CONTOUR PADS by GLIT for scratch-free scrubbing of textured floor: 800 431-2976 www.glit-microtron.com/Catalog/catalog-11.html

Phone: (877) ICE-COURT

