



PREMIER EQUESTRIAN®
The Arena Company

ENGINEERING THE PERFECT RIDE



Premier Textile Footing Installation Guide

January 2018

TEXTILE FOOTING INSTALLATION

We understand horses and how important it is to keep your equine partner safe and sound. For the past decade we've been studying how arena surfaces interact with horse biomechanics. Our footing products are formulated for optimal biomechanics and injury prevention.

This booklet will guide you through the process for installing textile footing additives. Before you begin, review the checklist and details described in the installation procedures. If you have any questions a Premier representative can help you. Call 800-611-6109.



Before you begin, review the checklist and details described in the installation procedures.



CHECKLIST

1. Verify the sand that you receive is the sand you ordered and matches the approved report you were given
2. Verify the depth of the sand
3. Gather installation equipment
 - Tractor
 - Tractor attachments: Tiller, Harley rake, or disk. (Choose one; Tiller attachment works best)
 - Manure spreader (recommended)
 - Groomer
 - Wire cutters for bands on bales
 - Hand rake or pitch fork
 - Rolling equipment (optional)
4. Labor & Time – Plan one full day with three people for a 10,000–15,000 sq. ft. arena
5. Water – At least 2 cups per sq. ft. is required for installation (40 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft.)
6. Footing additive bales
7. Recipe or Ratios – Verify the ratio of textile for your installation.
Standard Prescribed Ratios:
 - 3 – 3.5” sand .40 lb per square foot
 - 3.5 – 4” sand .50 lb per square foot
 - 4 – 4.5” sand .60 lb per square foot

TEXTILE FOOTING INSTALLATION

DO-IT-YOURSELF INSTALLATION

Verify sand type

We will help identify sand based on samples and sieve reports provided by Premier, customers, and/or sand and gravel quarries. It is your responsibility to assure the correct sand is delivered from the quarry. Using a professional quarry that provides sieve reports assures better outcomes.

Be careful when it comes to buying your sand. There are many ways to get incorrect sand even when you order the correct sand. Always verify at each step of the buying process, from beginning to end. Be sure you are getting the same sand that was tested and approved.



Level the sand and verify depth

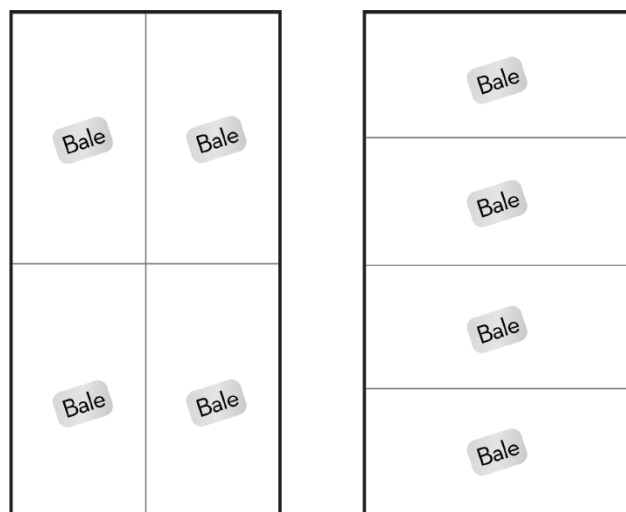
Laser grading is best for this step, but can also be accomplished with a blade attachment or groomer. Once the sand has been leveled, you must verify the depth. The footing is calculated as a recipe or ratio of sand to footing additive. If you have the wrong amount of sand your arena will not perform correctly.

Distribute footing bales

Start by spreading **half** of the additive evenly across the surface by dividing your arena into equal sections. For example: if you ordered eight bales, use four bales for the initial install and divide your arena into four equal sections.

*Start by spreading **half** of the additive evenly across the surface.*

The second half will be used after the first part of install is completed.



Arena divided into equal sections for first part of install with half of the bales distributed.

Bales for second half of install

Bale Bale Bale Bale



1. Water Dampen leveled arena slightly to allow additive to bind a bit.

2. Spread and Distribution of Textile Material

Bales are wrapped with wire and compacted tightly. Clip and remove the wire immediately from the work area. Most of the work in this stage involves decompressing the bales. Do not skimp here. The additive must be finely broken apart to fully mix in with sand. There are two methods for this. A manure spreader will save time and labor, however if a manure spreader is not available, spreading by hand is an option.



Manure Spreader: Calculate the area and bales needed for first half of install. Load into the manure spreader. You may need to load the spreader several times per section. Distribute evenly over the surface as the spreader breaks apart the large chunks.



Hand Spreading: Place half of your total footing bales equally into the arena sections. Open the bales. Decompress the material and spread evenly across one section at a time. Rakes and pitch forks are useful.

After initial spreading of textile material, be sure to verify that large chunks are broken up and the surface is evenly covered with material.

3. Water is a solvent and will provide a molecular bond to aid in mixing the sand and textile footing. Apply water at approximately 40 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. of material. Sand should be moist but not muddy.

4. Mix the footing thoroughly into sand with chosen equipment (groomer, tiller, Harley rake, or disk). *See **Mixing & Blending with Equipment** on next page for detailed instructions.*

5. Repeat steps 1 – 4 Spread, water, and mix the other half of your footing additive, then go to step 6.

6. Water again Once all footing is mixed, add more water at 40 gallons per 1,000 sq. ft. The drainage will aid in compaction.

7. Roll surface The sand and mix will have a lot of air in it from the tilling process. We recommend using the tines very shallow and rolling the surface for several days after initial installation. Watering will also help to compact the mid-base.



TEXTILE FOOTING INSTALLATION

MIXING & BLENDING EQUIPMENT



Tiller

A fast and easy way to mix textile into sand is using a reverse tiller, or regular tiller attachment for a 3-point hitch or skid steer. Set tines 1" – 2" above the base. Be aware that the tines can and will damage the base if set too deep. It's best to have a spotter verify the depth. When using a tiller attachment on a skid steer, drive in reverse so the driver can see how far the tines are digging.



Premier Groomers

Any of the Premier Groomers can be used for the initial installation. Please refer to your Premier Groomer instructions manual for details of mixing new material into the surface. The Premier Pro Groomers are best suited for installations. Other types of groomer can be effective. Contact your Premier sales representative regarding other groomers.



Harley Rake

A Harley Rake can be effective with the initial textile footing installation. However, this method does not blend as well as a tiller attachment.



3-point Disk Attachment

A disk attachment will also mix the footing and can be advantageous for existing sand arenas. The disk is designed to break up build up on the base and redistribute and grade the sand particles. The disk can be aggressive, so be careful not to damage your base.



Mixing sand and textile prior to spreading

Sand and textile can be mixed before spreading into the arena. This is the best method for mixing the components thoroughly, yet requires heavy equipment such as excavators, dozers, or skid steers. It also requires a flat, clean pad on which to blend the components. Mix the sand and textile at the proper ratio and then spread evenly.



MAINTENANCE

Textile arenas require daily maintenance to achieve an optimal surface.

Hydration

Water will help textiles and sand particles bind together. A constant state of hydration is required for proper maintenance. To test hydration, pick up a handful of footing and make a ball. With your palm up, open your hand and let the footing fall apart.

- If the ball falls apart quickly or has no body, the footing is dry.
- If the ball has body and holds together for a few seconds, the footing is hydrated.
- If the ball does not fall apart, the footing is too wet.



Grooming

Grooming and maintenance are key factors in achieving high-quality arena footing. Grooming enables you to maintain a consistent riding surface for your equine athlete, avoid footing irregularities, and condition your sand and footing additives. Regularly mixing and leveling footing prevents problems. Grooming keeps the footing and sand combined. Properly combined footing results in a properly functioning arena surface.

Refer to your grooming manual for techniques and grooming procedures. Groom at least once a day for heavily-used arenas and twice per week for lightly-used arenas.





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www.PremierEquestrian.com 800-611-6109



Premier's footing is the best we have ever ridden on. It's the perfect combination of materials, provides superior traction as well as cushioning, retains moisture well, reduces dust, and is very easy to maintain. We couldn't be happier. Premier Equestrian is simply the best!"

Olympian –Steffen Peters & Shannon Peters



*Premier Equestrian is the Official
Footing Supplier of US Equestrian*