

CLEANING SQUASH COURT WALLS

The quality and cleanliness of the walls is an important factor in how participants evaluate the quality of a court. It is important to regularly clean the squash court walls in order to prolong their life and provide a high-quality experience for members.

Why?

Cleaning your courts will improve the reflective light and overall appearance within the court. Marks on the walls are mainly caused by graphite and similar type materials used for racket heads and from balls. Grease marks caused by body contact on the back and side walls will penetrate the surface and become a permanent problem.

Frequency

Squash court walls should ideally be cleaned thoroughly at least once a year.

By who?

This work can be done either by volunteers or by a contractor.

Equipment requirements for volunteers

\$100 - \$600

- Microfibre pads or melamine foam: \$10 - \$20 [this for example](#)
- Mild dish washing detergent: \$5 - \$10 [this for example](#)
- Glass cleaner: \$5 - \$20 [this for example](#)
- Protective equipment: \$50 - \$250
- Ladder: \$150 - \$500

Cost for contractor

Per court this could cost anywhere between \$600 - \$1000.

Time required

Contractor: Generally 1 – 2 hours a court for a medium marked court.

Volunteers: Medium marked walls could take up to 10/12 hours to clean one court. This work is best done as a group of five to six people can generally clean one court in around two hours.

Process for volunteers

1. Dust and wipe down walls: Use a soft-bristle broom or a duster with an extendable handle to remove dust and cobwebs from the walls, paying particular attention to any decorative features or associated areas to the court. Wipe down the walls with a damp cloth and mild detergent if necessary, ensuring that you rinse away any residue.
2. Address scuff marks: Squash balls and rackets can leave scuff marks on court walls, affecting their appearance and performance. Use the right cleaner for your surface (see below) with a microfibre cloth or melamine foam, such as the Magic Eraser, to remove scuffs without causing damage to the wall surface. Always test any cleaning product in an inconspicuous area before applying it to a visible section of the wall.
3. Inspect and Repair Damaged Wall Panels: Check the court walls for any damages weekly, such as cracks or indentations, and repair them to ensure structural integrity and a smooth playing surface.

Things to consider

1. Before cleaning, the court floor must be protected. Thoroughly covering the floor with plastic sheets will reduce the chance of water or chemical damage and potential scratches from other equipment.
2. You may require a ladder or moveable scaffolding to reach higher areas. If you require scaffolding, it is recommended that you use a contractor.
3. Walls need to be fully wiped down with a microfibre cloth and warm water after cleaning as scouring action leaves a white paint residue on walls.
4. Do not use coloured rags as the chemical dyes can leave the colour on your walls.
5. You are strongly advised to contact the supplier of the material for the walls before attempting to clean the surface as they should be able to provide or recommend a suitable cleaner.

Things to consider with cleaning different types of walls

Plaster Walls

Start by testing a small area using a mild dish washing detergent. Allow the area to dry to test the effectiveness of the cleaner. A microfibre pad or melamine foam pad may be used to remove stubborn marks. In no circumstances should an acidic cleaner be used on a plastered surface as this will remove a thin layer of the material and will become powdery.

Panel Systems

Ball marks can often be removed using a damp microfibre cloth. For more thorough cleaning, wash the walls down using a mild dish washing detergent and wipe down with a damp cloth.

Painted Surfaces

Both concrete and panel systems that have been painted may be washed down using a mild dish washing detergent. Use a microfibre pad or melamine foam to remove ball marks and stubborn stains. Wash down with clean water.

Glass-Back Walls

1. Use a non-abrasive Glass Cleaner. Use a glass cleaner specifically designed for this purpose, avoiding abrasive or acidic cleaning agents that could damage the glass surface or weaken the glass over time.
2. Apply the cleaner with a microfibre cloth or sponge: These materials are less likely to scratch the glass surface and can effectively remove dirt, grease, and smudges without leaving streaks or residue.
3. Polish the glass: After cleaning the glass, polish it with a clean, lint-free cloth or a few sheets of newspaper. This will ensure a streak-free and clear finish, enhancing the appearance of your squash court.
4. Inspect for damages: Inspect glass back walls weekly for any cracks, chips, or scratches, as these can compromise the wall's strength and pose a safety hazard.



General Maintenance and Preventative Steps

In addition to routine cleaning, consider these general maintenance tips and preventative measures to keep your squash court in optimal condition:

1. Keep the court environment clean: Encourage players to wipe their shoes before entering the court to minimise dirt tracking. Place a doormat or small carpet at the court entrance for this purpose and provide shoe-cleaning brushes or stations nearby if possible.
2. Maintain proper court temperature and humidity: A controlled environment is essential for player comfort, as well as the health of the court's materials. Aim for a court temperature between 15-20°C and a humidity level between 40-60%.
3. Schedule regular maintenance checks: Regularly assess the overall condition of your squash court to catch any potential issues early on and address them before they worsen. This will include inspecting the flooring, walls, and other court components, as well as checking for any signs of water staining, mould, mildew, or pest infestations.

By following these steps, you will not only maintain your squash court's cleanliness and longevity but also create a safe and enjoyable experience for players. Prioritising court maintenance will protect your investment, ensure a quality playing surface and enable your facility to attract and retain a loyal clientele.