

SQUASH COURT WALL MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

There are several different surfaces that are used for squash walls; wood, rubber panel, concrete, plaster and glass. In New Zealand, many squash courts date back to around the 1970s and during this period courts were predominantly built using concrete and plaster.

Since then, alternative court construction using new technologies such as prefabricated panel systems have become more popular. Glass technology has also advanced and is now being used more in court wall construction.

Out of these options, plaster walls require the most maintenance, however glass and panel systems still require cleaning and monitoring to extend their life and to keep them at the highest standard.

Why?

The walls of a squash court are a critical asset for a squash club, ensuring that you have a smooth, even surface for quality play that is well looked after will save you money in the long run and will be important to your members.

Frequency

Checks: Court walls should be regularly monitored for damage, imperfections or movement, with a full check ideally being undertaken at least once a month.

Plaster Walls: Are prone to cracking and chipping and require a higher level of monitoring than other systems and any holes, cracks, gaps and chipping need to be repaired as quickly as possible. Major repairs or replacements generally need to be done on an as-required basis depending on the state of the paint, if kept well maintained, walls might only need to be refurbished every five years.

Panel Walls: Require some monitoring of panels as they are subject to moving or bending out of shape if the joints holding them are not regularly maintained, a quick check should be done once every two months along with regular cleaning.

Glass Walls: Require minimal ongoing maintenance other than cleaning but recommend checking for cracks or imperfections once every two months.

By who?

All the monitoring can be done by club members and club volunteers and for glass and panel walls it is recommended that you talk to your installer or a contractor if any issues are identified. For plaster walls, small repairs can be done by volunteers, but it is recommended that any larger repairs or refurbishments be done by qualified or experienced contractors.



Equipment requirements for volunteers

To do small repairs it could cost up to \$400 depending on the materials you use:

- Wire brush - \$5 - \$20 [this for example](#)
- Plasterers hawk/flat trowel - \$20
- Cleaner - \$20
- Spatula - \$10
- Sanding block - \$15
- Binder - \$50 - \$70 (optional) [this for example](#)
- Filler - \$50 - \$70 [this for example](#)
- Etch Primer (optional) - \$40 - \$60 [this for example](#)
- Paint (if required) - \$100 - 200
- Safety equipment - \$50 - \$150
- Step ladder
- Plastic sheets - \$80 - \$150 [this for example](#)

Cost for contractor

Contractor: To fully refurbish a plaster court, this could cost between \$4,000 and \$6,000 for all four walls or between \$1,500 and \$3,000 for the front wall.

Time required

Contractor: Up to three days to fully refurbish a court.

Volunteers: Any small repairs could take up to three days due to multiple products requiring drying time.

Process for volunteers to repair plaster walls

1. First dig out any loose material where damage has occurred using a wire brush
2. Remove any dust using a damp cloth or rag
3. Clean down the area with a solvent degreaser.
4. *Optional* - Apply one coat of a surface binder to aid with filler securing to the wall.
5. Fill hole or cracks with a two-pack epoxy filler.
6. Sand filler down to flat.
7. *Optional* – Apply one coat of Etch Primer to aid adhesion.
8. *Optional* – Apply two coats of Squash Court Paint. If the repair is only small, you may not want to purchase paint as the smallest amount you can get is 4 litres. You could wait until the next full refurbishment of the walls to paint the full court. Not painting repairs should not impact the integrity of the repair if it is done properly.

Things to consider

- Even for small repairs, we recommend getting in contact with a contractor first who may be able to carry out the work as for volunteers it requires a lot of products and getting it back to a smooth, even surface can be difficult.
- Before attempting to carry out any minor repairs or cleaning, the floor must be protected. Covering the floor with plastic sheets will reduce the chance of damage.
- You will require a ladder or moveable scaffolding to reach higher areas.
- It is recommended that you use protective equipment such as a mask and eye-ware.
- Ensure you carefully follow the instructions for each product, including the full drying times.
- To assist with drying and fumes where possible open all windows and doors to provide ventilation.

