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# BEST PRACTICES SPORT SURFACING

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## Acrylic Tennis and Basketball Court Surfaces

Is there any real difference?



[sealmaster.net](http://sealmaster.net)

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**S**portMaster® is our brand of 100% acrylic sport surfaces. As you look through the catalog and website, you will find a mix of color coatings with similar names and descriptions. The common questions are “*which coating should I use for my tennis court or basketball court surface?*” Or “*Can I use the same surface for multiple sports?*”

Before we continue with the full written explanation, here are some bullet points that show the main color coating differences, from the factory:

- **Color Concentrate** (contains full pigmentation, requires addition of sand and water)
- **Color Concentrate with sand** (contains full pigmentation and the proper sand, requires dilution)
- **Ready-Mix Color** (contains full pigmentation, sand, and water)



When these products are mixed and ready to apply, you have exactly the same level of quality and end result. We offer this variety in order to meet the needs of the contractor or end-user, for many different reasons. Here are a few more options with our ColorPlus System:

- **Neutral Concentrate** (contains no pigmentation, requires addition of ColorPlus Pigment Dispersion, sand and water)
- **Neutral Concentrate with sand** (contains sand, but no pigmentation. Requires addition of ColorPlus Pigment Dispersion and water)

Again, once these products are mixed with all required additions, you have the same quality and end result. The post addition of the ColorPlus Pigment Dispersion allows another level of flexibility with inventory control, shipping costs, and minimizing leftover materials for sport surfacing contractors.



Ok, so back to the original question, **“Is there any difference between acrylic tennis and basketball court surfaces?”** The quick and easy answer is, “there doesn’t have to be.” Acrylic sport coatings are flexible or customizable in a variety of ways, but in this situation, surface texture is the main focus. Any of our color systems can be applied for tennis or basketball with the factory-mixed sand and work well for either sport. However, if the end-user wants a smoother or rougher playing surface for either sport, the amount, size, or type of sand can be adjusted to produce a different surface texture. Here is a table (**Figure 1**) to show the different results and performance characteristics when customizing surface texture:

Sand Description	Surface Characteristics	Tennis	Basketball
**Fine, rounded	Safe, non-slip with minimal *tool marks	Medium speed of play	Safe, non-slip with non-aggressive feel
Coarse, sub-angular to angular	Safe, non-slip with noticeable *tool marks	Slower speed of play, higher bounce. More tennis ball fuzz.	Safe, non-slip with more aggressive grip
No sand in color coatings or final coat	Smooth, can be slippery when wet, minimal *tool marks	Faster speed of play, lower bounce	“Scrape-free” falls. Similar to indoor wood floor performance
* tool marks are made by application squeegee passes			
** fine, rounded sand is standard in our “with sand” factory mixes			

**Figure 1**

In summary, the factory standard “with sand” mixtures provide a great overall surface for tennis, basketball, and most other sports. It is a safe, slip-free surface with non-aggressive traction. Plus, it provides the best combination of aesthetics, performance, and safety.

