

Construction – Features and Benefits

Construction Type	Features	Benefits
Earthmoving	We use our own highly skilled excavator drivers and, where possible, our own eight- and 13-tonne steel-tracked Caterpillars fitted with laser levelling equipment.	We know how important it is to compact the ground properly and to get the site level with a minimum of bumps in the formation. A 50mm ridge in the formation could trap water in the base. At the same time as laying the foundations, we place and spread topsoil ready for landscaping around the court.
Geotextile	We supply 1000 grade geotextile from our own yard as a weed barrier and to separate the foundation stone from the earth below.	The geotextiles available from builders' merchants are often thick and do not drain well, this keeps water in the stone. In this case, less is more.
Foundation Stone Depth	The depth of stone we lay is compliant with the Lawn Tennis Association's accepted code of practice for your type of land.	An inadequate base may frost heave and go bumpy or not support the loads imposed in construction. This makes it impossible to achieve reasonable surface tolerances.
Foundation Stone Type	<p>We select suppliers of Type 1 roadstone which is both porous, hard and non-frost susceptible.</p> <p>We do not use crushed concrete or other second quality frost-susceptible materials.</p> 	<p>Type 1 is a roadstone grading, some will drain, some will not. Tennis courts are not roads – they let water into their base. Roads keep the water out of the base, so the demands for tennis court materials are far greater than just a roadbase. Poor roadstone such as soft limestone will go bumpy on the surface and may not drain after a period of time, even if they do so initially.</p> <p>Type 3 fines reduced stones are not always readily available in many areas of the country, so we use our extensive skills and knowledge in every job. This is another reason for using our own skilled craftsmen for excavation to judge each load of stone.</p>
Equipment	We own our fleet of specialist tennis court rollers, powered straight edges and macadam loaders.	We can ensure that we use the best equipment for the job and that all items have been cleaned and maintained to give smooth, efficient operation resulting in a better tennis court.

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Macadams	Specialist tennis court surfacing material is 30% more expensive than, for instance, 6mm medium grade BS4987, which is footpath macadam. This may not drain and may have soft aggregates that migrate out of the surface. It may also suffer rust staining from iron aggregates.	It is said that hard courts bounce high, do not drain and fail early. These descriptions are usually of copy tennis courts, not real tennis courts. A surface that is not smooth will grab the ball and stand up. A dense macadam will not drain.
Tennis Posts	Our posts are made from 76mm box with 3.2mm wall thickness steel, with lug-on post to locate in a cut-out socket. Thermoplastic dip coated in black. Brass British-made winder. Brass pulley and spindle in winder and anchor posts. We also have lightweight aluminium netposts with an oak finish for courts that are going to be used for multi-use and the netposts removed regularly.	<p>These posts will easily last for more than 20 years without a problem. The pulley on the anchor post stops the paint being scuffed and the net cord shredded.</p> 
Netpost Sockets	Our netpost sockets are galvanised boxes which are concreted into the ground. A galvanised socket with a trapdoor lid or carpet infill is then dropped into the box. When the tarmac has been laid we adjust the socket to come flush with the actual finished level of the tarmac.	<p>If the socket is fixed and even slightly too high or too low it becomes a trip hazard when the netposts are removed to use the courts for other sports such as soccer, hockey or netball.</p> <p>Ground sockets are a plunger type which will not break or rust.</p>
Chain Linked Netting and Fence Posts	<p>We use 3.5mm, plastic-coated galvanised hard wire netting, through which we thread five line wires.</p> <p>Our bespoke fence posts are made by our in-house blacksmith, allowing us peace of mind about the quality as it is all galvanised and painted. It also allows us to create elegant individual designs for special situations.</p>	<p>Hard wires will not go baggy when 5-a-side balls and the likes are kicked at them. Galvanising will stop any rusting while the British plastic coating will not fade for a very long time.</p> <p>Threading the line wires through the netting holds it much more taut and, of course, there are no clips to fail and it can be re-tensioned.</p>