

RIDING ARENAS



Many horse owners wonder whether they can afford an all weather surface and are put off by the high cost of having a contractor come in to do the whole job. These same people often know where to get hold of the necessary men and machinery and some are even capable of driving the hired in machinery themselves.

Here are some guidelines to help you on cost and procedures when you are thinking of putting in your own arena.

LOCATION

This is crucial. Consider the following over and above the obvious:

1. Drainage - Try to locate at the top of a slope rather than the bottom. Think about where the water is to drain to.
2. Windbreaks are useful if convenient.
3. Irrigation - may be needed to enhance compaction if not used regularly, so make sure there is a convenient water supply.
4. Access from hard road for 20 Tonne/8 Wheeler delivery trucks.

GENERAL PROCEDURE

- 1) Strip enough soil to allow finished surface to stand at least 150mm proud of surrounding land (consider where removed soil might be productively used elsewhere).
- 2) Drainage - Once you have cut out the formation cut shallow trenches to lay 100mm drainage pipes topped up with 10 to 20mm shingle to carrier trench on the outside.
- 3) Lay geo-textile membrane over the whole area.
- 4) Install kick boards and fencing.
- 5) Lay and compact 150mm of base stone i.e. 40mm scalplings or similar open textured stone that compacts well but allows water through.
- 6) Lay 150mm of free draining silica sand or a combination of sand and rubber or plastic as required.

PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS

Drainage pipe, membrane, fencing materials	£3000
10 to 20mm shingle - 40 Tonnes	£500
Base stone - 200 Tonnes	£5000
Silica sand - 200 Tonnes	£5000
Labour and machinery - 2 men/10 days	£5000

APPROXIMATE COST*

* 40m x 20m arena. This is not an estimate. Costs will vary according to site conditions and location VAT not included

John Bourne & Co Ltd
The Wharf, Rye Road, Newenden, Kent, TN18 5QG

Tel: 01797 252298
Fax: 01797 253115
Email: graham@bourne.uk.com

