

Greatmat Floor Care and Use

Fargo Moorhead Kennel Club

Approved by Board of Directors 11/25/17

PURPOSE

Instruct on correct installation, use, cleaning and storage of Greatmat matting. See also attached Greatmat Company information.

INSTALLATION

Mats are to be installed on agility floor area over clean existing mats. One direction only, heart in UPPER right corner. Squares are reversible.

CLEANING

All users are responsible to keep the mats clean.

1. Vacuum weekly and as needed.
2. Damp mop as needed.
3. Spot clean immediately for spills, dog accidents including areas of drooling, and any soiling.
4. Commercial walk behind cleaner with SOFT brushes monthly or in conjunction with trials.
5. Avoid standing water.

Approved cleaning products

1. Bleach solution: 10-parts water to 1-part bleach for spot cleaning.
2. White vinegar solution: 3-parts water to 1-part vinegar for spot cleaning.
3. **Unscented** household cleaner, diluted.
4. Use of hot water encouraged for overall cleaning.
5. In ring side, spray bottles 1 to 10 solution of **unscented** household cleaner or 1 to 3 white vinegar to water.

USE

This policy applies to any area Greatmats are used.

1. Protective mat will be placed under:
 - a. Dog walk legs.
 - b. Teeter base and ends of teeter where they meet the floor.
 - c. A-frame edges where they meet the floor.
 - d. Pause table and pole setter chairs will be evaluated for the need of additional padding.
 - e. Do not drag any equipment across surface of floor.
2. No "places" to be left in the ring. If temporarily used, clean area around the place as needed after use.
3. No tape of any kind is to be used on the Greatmats.
4. Chalk marking may be used provided the marks are removed when finished.
5. Wipe shoes before entering the agility area or change from outside footwear to inside shoes. No footwear with cleats or heavy treads may be worn on the Greatmat matting. During wet, snowy, or muddy conditions you are strongly encouraged to use different shoes for running on the mats vs. walking outside. Towels will be provided to clean off shoes and dog's feet as entering the building.
6. No products for dog foot treatments are allowed on the mats
7. Kenneling/crating on mats is prohibited. This includes trials, events, training and classes.
8. No food or drinks, other than water, are allowed on the floor area with Greatmats.
9. Dog treats must be picked up and area cleaned up as needed, as soon as possible.
10. Dogs must enter the building through the east doors. Unless floor is tarped for a trial, no dogs should enter directly onto the agility floor (no re-entry from side or rear doors).

These mats will scar and show scrapes from dogs running, this does not affect the integrity of the surface. Please avoid additional damage.

STORAGE

Mats will be stored lying flat on pallets in a temperature controlled environment, avoiding extreme heat and following manufacturers recommendation for maximum stack height.

The following is Greatmat Company information:

DESCRIPTION

Top Features for Dog Agility Mats Interlocking Tiles

1. Maximum comfort for trainers and dogs
2. Floor cushion allows dogs to train longer
3. Non slip grip top for dog agility traction
4. Waterproof will not absorb moisture
5. No adhesive required for installation
6. Light and portable, easy to install, four border strips come with each tile
7. Double sided reversible agility tiles
8. Lead free and latex free

Use Types

Agility Training, Fly Ball, Obedience Training

Dog agility mats provide superior traction and comfort for dogs and trainers alike. Dog owners and dog agility floor users will enjoy maximum comfort for many years with the Greatmats durable EVA foam agility mats. They are double-sided and in-line reversible, allowing for use of both sides of the mats, increasing the value these mats offer.

1. Maximum Comfort Our durable agility mats provide comfort for trainers and dogs that's unmatched by other products on and provide cushioning. These mats are especially good for puppies, as these young dogs' joints are still developing, and for older dogs, who may be starting to experience some joint pain. Versus a hard flooring option, our EVA foam tiles provide a great comfort level for dogs who are undergoing agility training. Our tiles also work well as dog play mat options, providing a comfortable place for dogs to play. And trainers are on their feet and moving almost as much as the dogs during the agility sessions, so the comfort of the foam tiles is just as important for the humans as for their dogs. The foam used in these tiles provides more comfort and anti-fatigue benefits in a flooring material than hard rubber style tiles. The rubber tiles don't have much cushioning or give.

2. Floor Cushioning The dense foam mats are lightweight, portable and feature a durable grip surface texture that provides exceptional traction for dogs' paws while providing enhanced support and cushion for trainers and dogs alike. This flooring system will endure the daily punishment of agility training. You can train your dogs in comfort with our durable foam interlocking agility mats. Each tile measures 3/4 of an inch in thickness, which yields a nice level of cushioning for dogs. Customers have reported that their dogs are able to train and jump for longer periods of time, thanks to the cushioning on the floor. The cushioning of the floor protects your dogs' foot pads versus a rough or extremely hard flooring. Some types of hard flooring can catch a dog's nail during agility training, as it attempts to gain traction on the hard floor. Occasionally, the dog could lose a nail when this occurs, causing a painful injury that will reduce the amount of time the dog can spend in training and playing. A cushioned floor with a bit of give will keep the dog's nails safer.

3. Non-Slip Grip Our agility mats feature a durable surface texture that provides exceptional grip and traction for dogs' paws, while providing enhanced support for trainers too. Because of the no-slip surface texture of our dog agility flooring, you can expect to see some toenail scuffing, puncturing, indentations or other markings in the surface of the dog agility mats. This does concern some customers aesthetically when it initially occurs. However, these surface markings and indentions will not affect the performance of the agility mats or change the dog agility mat's ability to provide maximum anti-fatigue cushion and traction. The dog will be able to use its foot pads to gain a bit of traction on the non-slip surface of our foam tiles, meaning the dog will have better success during agility training versus trying to train on a hard floor surface that's a little slippery. Feel free to use our dog agility flooring under any type of dog agility training equipment. The non-slip grip allows the equipment to stay securely in place, even when dogs and trainers jump and step on the equipment. With a

smooth type of flooring, the equipment could slide around, causing a potential danger for the animals. However, you may notice some dents in the foam flooring from heavy equipment or equipment that the animals and trainers step on repeatedly. Again, these dents don't affect the quality and performance of the flooring. If you are concerned with the way these types of punctures and dents look, though, consider one of our Greatmats rubber tile mat options, which resist punctures and dents.

4. Waterproof Any time you have a lot of dogs in a room, there are going to be accidents. It's inevitable, especially if puppies are involved. Fortunately, our dog agility flooring tiles are resistant to all types of liquids, giving you time to clean up any messes. Because of the waterproof capabilities of these tiles, you can clean them with a walk behind commercial floor cleaner that uses soft brushes. When spot cleaning the tiles, a damp mop with hot water and basic household soap works well. You simply can vacuum the tiles regularly to clean up dry debris. Additionally, you may use diluted bleach on the tiles to disinfect them. However, it's recommended that you test any cleaning solution or scrub brushes in an out-of-the-way and unnoticeable area to ensure you won't damage or discolor the foam mats.

5. No Adhesive Required Our agility mats are easy to install on any hard, flat surface with no glue or tape required. Each mat measures 3.3 by 3.3 feet, providing 10.8 square feet of coverage per tile. If you want to install the tiles in a room with existing carpeting, it's recommended that you remove the carpet first. Tiles installed over carpeting could slip in an island installation, which is one where the set of tiles consists of a square in the room and doesn't extend to the room's walls. If you're installing the tiles wall to wall, the chances of slipping on the carpeting is eliminated, meaning you can install the tiles directly over low pile carpeting. You may want to use double-sided tape for an island installation. Four border strips come with each dog agility flooring tile, allowing you to create a flat edge on any individual tile. If you need to cut a tile to allow it to fit flush against a wall, you can easily score and cut the individual tiles using a sharp utility knife or a box cutter, along with a sturdy straight edge.

6. Light and Portable Each tile weighs 6 pounds, meaning the tiles are easy to maneuver for installation. Additionally, if you're going to move the tiles from room to room or if you need to disconnect and pick up the tiles regularly because the room has multiple purposes, having lightweight tiles is a significant advantage to this type of Greatmats flooring. Because our EVA foam tiles weigh far less than rubber rolled flooring or rubber interlocking mats, they're easier to move around. They also cost far less to ship than rubber mats. Even though our dog agility training flooring tiles are portable, they're designed for indoor use. These types of EVA foam tiles will expand or potentially deform when exposed to areas of high humidity, high heat, or direct sunlight, meaning they're not recommended for outdoor use. However, some users have reported success with using the tiles outdoors for short periods of time, as long as the tiles are stored indoors and only are used outdoors occasionally.

7. Double-Sided and Reversible The dog agility flooring mats are double-sided for twice the use and life span, which is a tremendous feature that provides value to the product. Should a single tile become soiled or damaged significantly, you can simply flip that tile over and reattach it to the grid, maintaining the solid construction of the overall floor. Or if you have noticed that the agility flooring as a whole is just starting to look worn, you can reverse all of the tiles and end up with a floor that looks completely new. Because you don't have to use any adhesive in the installation of the floor, it's relatively easy to flip all of the tiles over and reconnect them.

8. Lead and Latex Free These dog training floor mats are lead and latex free, will not absorb water, and come with a 1-year limited warranty. By avoiding dangerous chemicals in the construction of our dog agility flooring, we've ensured the tiles will remain safe for dogs and humans alike. Some customers have even reported using our foam tiles as a cushioned floor in a playroom for toddlers learning to walk, showcasing the importance of using safe materials when making the tiles. Enjoy maximum comfort for many years with these durable ethylene-vinyl acetate (EVA) and polyethylene (PE) foam dog agility mats!

Maintenance

Vacuum weekly and clean your dog agility mats using a very dry damp mopping process using Pine Sol or similar on a weekly basis. Do not allow standing moisture to seep between the seams. An automated walk behind floor cleaner will make cleaning your flooring easier on a monthly or quarterly base. Use the softest scrubbers available and test prior to use to make sure the scrubbers will not damage the foam dog agility mats.