



TACKNTALES Product Review by Eleanor Klawer

WHOA DUST ARENA DUST CONTROL

Dust control on riding surfaces is an issue for every horseperson. At our farm, we have tried the usual products involving Calcium Chloride or Magnesium Chloride, and while the dust was kept down, the damage to the boards and metal door frames was significant from the salts oxidizing the wood and metal. It also raised worries as to the effect on horses' hooves. As a result, we opted for just sprinkling when necessary, which was roughly weekly in the winter, and almost daily in the hot weather we have been having lately. Apart from the time required, and the necessity to do it late at night or early in the morning before clients arrive to ride, being on a well made this a concern, for although we have never run out of water, it is always a possibility, and we all have a responsibility to look after the aquifers.

Whoa Dust piqued my interest with the claim that it is completely non-toxic. You can drop some in a fish tank, and the fish will be just fine, I was told! It is made from acrylamide, the material contact lenses are made of, and rather than coating the footing, it works on the charge properties of each type of footing. A few grains of Whoa Dust added to a murky sample of footing in water cleared the water in seconds as it pulled the dust out of suspension. A sample of your footing is submitted and they evaluate it and suggest the correct amount of product for the size and type of your arena. A remarkably small amount of product is used, (<6 kg for my indoor arena), is spread by hand, lightly combed or harrowed, and activated by a good application of water. Whoa Dust can be used with almost all footing, is biodegradable, will not wash away, and increases the tensile strength of the footing. This means it binds the footing together subtly, creating a more stable surface.



FOXTROT FARM

My arena is a crush/rubber mix, and as it is new, it has very little organic matter. The results were very satisfactory. Weather here in the BC Lower Mainland has been unusually hot and dry, for a record period of time, and we would have easily been sprinkling daily in the past. Now we sprinkle every four days at the most, and a harrow recharges it to stretch the time between water applications even more. We expect not to have to sprinkle at all in the winter, and Whoa Dust can last as long as 18 months, if not more. This is a huge time- and water-saver.

Whoa Dust is significantly less expensive than an application of Magnesium Chloride (in our area), so this product is extremely economical, effective, and environmentally sound. We are also trying the product on our outdoor ring, which is a thin layer of hog fuel over a sand base, but the weather is not co-operating and we are reluctant to sprinkle for that long because of the aforementioned water issues. We will report back soon with the results from the test in the outdoor. Contact alex@strathconaanimalbedding.ca or call toll free 1-888-913-3150. 🐾