

# The Ecoraster

*Your Solution to the Perfect Surface in Every Season*

*By Bryan Fleming*



Mud is something I have become well acquainted with recently. It started years ago when my family rescued a horse rescue, which is a great story in its own. We inherited an old cattle barn with a small mud yard and a large grass field, full of briars... another story also on its own. Every time it rained I felt so bad for the horses, not only for being just wet, but also covered in mud. I thought it was just part of the everyday life of a horse.

After our benefactors decided to sell the property, we were lucky to find a Clarke County farm with 6 large paddocks, 1 small field and a modern barn with concrete floors and 14 stalls. I thought this was heaven and what horse life should be. Being that we signed the lease in a dry time, we had no clue what was in store for us. The fields were actually in

a bowl and a runoff creek ran through the property that was connected to two ponds at the neighboring property. When the rain started, our main pathway to every field was a running stream. For months the horses, volunteers, and we were sloshing through feet of mud and moving water, many times arriving at the paddock barefoot with mud alley taking our boots and the socks.

I was really feeling now for the horses. Wet hooves lead to many problems as we all know. My mind started working on ideas. Great patent pending ideas that could be investments in the future. Then we found our dream farm on a hill, moved in, and jumped straight in to the duties of actually owning a farm out right. This left our mud problems behind and no more thought on them... until the rains began again. Now that most of our property was gravel, the puddles and pot holes were now put on the to-do list and the mind started thinking again.

Months later we had the opportunity to become owners of Horse Times and one of our current clients had the answer to every mud problem I had. Mid-Atlantic Grid & Paving Systems offered the sales and installation of a very unique fix for areas you do not want to pave with concrete, it was the ECORASTER draining system. A ground reinforcement for stable and permeable surfaces. It allowed you to keep the yard, the parking lot or the ring in the same feel, but gave a perfect runoff of the water. Ponding and mud would never be a problem again.



Since being introduced to the product and having the opportunity to visit farms and wineries while delivering the magazine. The percentage of people and businesses that I have seen switch to this landscaping technology, just keeps growing. Able to withstand human traffic, a herd of horses or even vehicles and trailers. Any part of your property would love to have a grid of ECORASTERs installed.

Thanks to the versatile filling options, planners can choose from a wide range of creative space design choices: Green areas fit for traffic and for occasional vehicle parking, modern electric car charging bays with integrated rainwater retention and sturdy sedum plants or classic designs with concrete paving and parking space markings for easy orientation. The system can be installed safely and securely in sloped terrain, and with more than 200 expansion joints per square yard and 36 connection elements per square yard, the grid is able to counteract the prevailing forces on the embankment. This leads to a reduction of topsoil erosion and preserves the ground surface.

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are high-performance surfaces which are adapted to geographical characteristics and support and take care of our animals' welfare. The composition of equestrian arenas, paddocks and other surfaces has a significant impact on the wellbeing and safety of horse and rider. The ECORASTER equestrian solutions have been developed by and with professionals to turn your problem ground into a reliable and durable equestrian surface.

The ECORASTER range is the perfect separating layer for equestrian arenas and indoor schools: it prevents the base getting mixed up with the expensive equestrian surface or aggregate. The depth of impact is reduced and the surface offers noticeably more spring. This in turn protects your horses' joints and significantly reduces maintenance efforts. There are numerous applications for permeable ground stabilization systems in equestrian environments - not least as horses should avoid standing in mud or sludge to prevent hoof problems, joint problems or falls. A functioning composite system and robust and compatible elements are crucial for paddocks. The same applies for open stables, round pens and horse exercisers. The ground reinforcement systems create durable, easy to clean surfaces.

So if you have a drainage problem, flooding in areas of the property or want to upgrade your parking area, walkways, or around your outside patio and deck... if you want to give your horses, a perfect relaxing surface to enjoy... we have the team for you.

Mid-Atlantic Grid & Paving Systems has the experience to develop your area of change. Their website has a portfolio showing examples from a stall to a yard to an arena. With the amount of weather alone this year we have received. It just might be a great idea.

