HOW TO **TAKE YOUR ICE OUT** {PART 2}

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

PROS/CONS OF RUNNING AN IN-HOUSE SUMMER CAMP

RINK MAGAZINE

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PLAYING IT COOL

→ **FLORIDA HOSPITAL CENTER ICE** FUELS HOCKEY CULTURE IN AN UP-AND-COMING TAMPA SUBURB

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Ice Removal: Part 2

How to take the ice out with a sand floor

IN PART 2 OF OUR ICE REMOVAL SERIES*(Part 1 can be found in the March/April 2017 issue)* we will be going over the process used for a sand floor. The main difference between removing ice from a concrete floor versus a sand floor is that the majority of the ice will be removed from a sand floor using an ice edger and ice resurfacer (IR).

Before you start the removal process, it is important that you collect the equipment, tools and supplies needed to carry out the task from start to finish safely, and without any significant interruptions. You will also need to have a plan for disposing the ice paint in accordance with your local environmental laws.

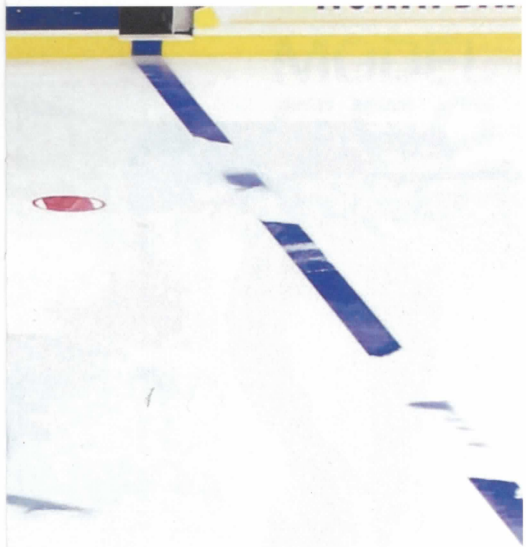
The ice removal process starts with recording initial ice depth measurements to determine areas that are thicker than others. After identifying the leveling of the ice surface using the edger on high spots such as the corners, you will need to shave them down with the IR. You will want to use various shaving patterns to address the high spots, such as figure-8s and cross-cuts.

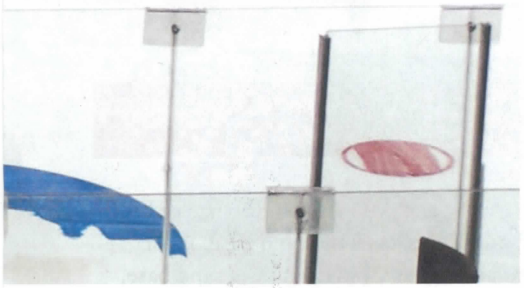
To make the shaving process move a little faster, it can be advantageous to adjust the refrigeration system set points to allow the ice surface temperature to warm up a few degrees, but not higher than 28 degrees Fahrenheit. You should only drive the IR on a solid sheet of ice to avoid the possibility of damaging the refrigeration pipes in the floor. To be safe, check the surface temperature with a handheld infrared thermometer and confirm the refrigeration system is still operating as expected in between shaves.

One thing to consider prior to remov-

THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REMOVING ICE FROM A CONCRETE FLOOR VERSUS A SAND FLOOR IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE ICE WILL BE REMOVED FROM A SAND FLOOR USING AN ICE EDGER AND ICE RESURFACER (IR).

PHOTOS: RINK ARCHIVES





ing the ice is to install a hydraulic oil cooler on your IR. The IR hydraulic fluid will heat up and expand more than normal as you do a number of consecutive shaves. If the fluid does not cool sufficiently in between shaves it could overflow, causing a potentially dangerous situation for you and a lengthy interruption to the process. A fluid cooler should allow you to drive the IR longer while avoiding this potential interruption.

Once the ice is relatively level, continue shaving using varying full-ice patterns to ensure the ice is being shaved evenly. Sand floors expand and contract differently than concrete floors, and the sand shifts over time. Therefore, there will be several high and low spots in the floor. As the ice becomes thinner, you will want to frequently walk the ice surface to identify high spots where the paint and sand is close to being exposed. As areas of the ice are shaved down to the sand surface, you will want to mark those areas with either traffic cones and/or a bright colored spray paint so you can shave around them.

→ Identify and remove the high spots in the corners with an ice edger.

Identifying these areas is very important for several reasons. First, once the IR blade starts shaving into the white ice paint it will start to dull quickly, so you will need to be prepared to change the blade frequently from this point forward. Secondly, as you shave through the paint and the IR blade hits an area of frozen sand it will render the blade unusable, and the blade will need to be replaced immediately. Finally, polypiping will move with the floor, so there could be a chance of shaving into a pipe as you go over exposed sand with the IR blade.

It is unlikely that you will be able to remove all of the ice and paint from the floor with the ice resurfacer due to the high spots. When you can no longer get to all of the remaining paint, it is a good idea to use box fans to melt the ice over those areas, and use a squeegee and wet-dry vacuum to remove it. The goal is to minimize the amount of ice paint that makes its way into the sand. Ice paint in the sand will cause heat transfer issues and must be removed before the next ice install.