



KAYS CURLING - CANADA

ROCK REPLACEMENT GUIDE



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1 The Olympic Development

Our company has been privileged to manufacture curling rocks incorporating Ailsa Craig granite in all previous Olympic Games, and are delighted to have manufactured the curling rocks required for the VANOC 2010 games. The rocks which were used at Sochi 2014, and the rocks which will be used at PyeongChang in 2018.

We are convinced it has been our experience in developing the design and performance of curling rocks, combined with our high commitment to quality which has enabled our company to remain at the forefront of curling rock design and manufacture.

2 The Running Bands

Competitors offer various materials for the Running Bands including all the Welsh Trevor granites, other old granites and ceramic materials.

We only use NEW Ailsa Craig Blue Hone microgranite which has been subjected to our unique quality control system. Ailsa Craig Blue Hone granite is very dense, and non-porous. It is made up of very fine grains which are tightly packed together. The result is even in wet conditions it will not take in water, and so it does not PIT as all other granite will do. It is a proven fact that Ailsa Craig Blue Hone granite has never been known to PIT.

3 The Body of the Rock

Again competitors offer various materials for the body of the rock including Welsh Red, Grey and Blue Trefor granites, other old granites and plastic.

We only use NEW Ailsa Craig Common Green granite which has been subjected to our unique quality control system. Ailsa Craig Common Green does not splinter or chip, as all of the Welsh Granites do when rock hits rock on the Striking Band.

The Major advantage of Ailsa Craig Common Green is that it has much better heat insulating qualities than all other granites, since it is more open grain (more porous), and so keeps the Running Band at a lower temperature, and as a result the rock curls more consistently.

4 Leading Curling Rock Design

Our continuous pursuit to improve the performance of our product has resulted in us incorporating two Running Bands on our latest design - The Complete Ailsa Craig 2020 series curling rocks.

Each Running Band is created by fitting a piece of brand new Ailsa Craig Blue Hone microgranite in the form of an Insert to each side of the rock. This design ensures the rock will maintain its optimum performance for longer than any other design. We have also increased the depth of the cup from 5mm to 8mm, this deeper cavity contributes to KEEPING the Running Bands Cool, and so performing more consistently.

Both sides are set to our latest specification for the inside game.



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5 Breaking-In Period & Matching

For over a decade now our new curling rocks will perform most consistently from day one, both in the amount of curl and speed on the ice. We use our own computer programme utilising seven levels of data from the curling rocks and supply a matched list along with user instructions to all customers. We have recently further refined this procedure, and we refer to this as Micro Matching.

6 Service Issues

All curling rocks require to be serviced at intervals to maintain their correct performance.

a) Minor Service

This process restores the radius of the leading edge and the radius of the trailing edge.

We recommend this service should be carried out between 300 and 800 games. When this service is carried out at the appropriate intervals then the performance of the rock is maintained **without** major weight loss. We have now perfected a precision method of servicing the Running Bands by bringing the lightweight equipment to your own club/Ice Rink and are able to offer this service at a very low cost.

This level of work can be carried out many times (between 10 and 20 times depending on wear) before the more major Intermediate service will be required.

NOTE WARNING

Some clubs have tried to carry out some form of minor service themselves by rubbing the Running Band on abrasive paper with disastrous results. Clubs who do this both negate the guarantee and incur a very expensive re-profiling repair.

b) Major Service

Once again this type of servicing requires very specialist heavy machinery specifically designed for the purpose. The process includes re-profiling the striking band, re-profiling the Running Band or Bands during which both are restored to factory specifications.

It will probably only be appropriate to carry out one such major service in the course of the curling rock's useful life due to the weight loss which can occur.

Our highly trained craftsmen carry out the major service on our custom built machinery. This type of upgrading is normally booked one or even two years ahead since it involves the curling rocks coming back to Gimli, Manitoba in the off-season.



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7 Planning to Upgrade your Curling Rocks

Kays Curling - Canada can assist in plans to upgrade your Club's Rocks. This should be started many years ahead of when they will be required. The undernoted issues should all be considered in the planning.

a) Build a Team

The planning process should involve building a TEAM who are able to understand ALL of the important issues which will require to be considered. The team should include experienced Ice Makers, Curling Coaches and business people, and people with a Financial background.

b) Liaise with Kays Curling - Canada

Make contact with Kays Curling - Canada Rock Specialists for advice on planning, rock types, organising demonstration events and lead times etc.

c) Working with what the Club can Afford

To assist Curling Clubs in such Planning, Kays Curling - Canada offer very high Quality upgraded Rocks which have many of the playing benefits which our latest Olympic Design have, while being at more affordable prices.

d) Establish a Payment Plan

To assist long term planning, Kays Curling - Canada offer initial deposits, as low as 10%, with the remaining payments planned over two years.

e) Fund Raising

The sequence the team should pursue, is in the initial stages establish whether the club require to build a Budget for Quality Upgraded Rocks or if the Club will prefer to build a Budget for Kays Curling Olympic Specification Rocks.

The business minds in the Team should at this stage explore all of the ways to raising monies to fund the Budget.

Kays Curling - Canada are experienced in supporting Curling Clubs in raising funds through obtaining sponsorship on the plastic handles and through obtaining sponsorship in other ways.



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