

Synthetic Ice: A Product for Every Budget

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If you have done any amount of research on synthetic ice and are considering buying some then you know that there are many names out there now selling it. Often it is the same 2 or 3 manufacturers pressing sheet stock or even extruding sheets and selling it under various brand names to dozens or re-sellers.

Some products work quite well even though it is not made for the sole purpose of skating. What we have found is that even the worst product out there can be skated on - but only by a very accomplished skater. Some companies claim that "resistance skating" is a good thing, and maybe for some skaters it is. That said, poor products with more resistance can teach your child poor skating mechanics as well and that should be avoided.

If the product is really cheap and low end then poor performance, followed by disappointment and then lack of use will inevitably follow. That said if you don't care about skating performance and only want to take shots with skates on or perform spins then by all means go low end and buy the cheapest cutting board material available. Just don't expect to skate well on it, because you will get what you pay for!

In defense of the wary consumer, most sellers of synthetic ice have done a poor job of communicating the differences in material and therefore performance. In their ignorance they tell customers that the product they sell is the fastest and that one style fits all and frankly they seem unable to clearly differentiate in any way that can be meaningful. The point is, as a consumer, just be aware that there are vast differences in materials available.

Common sense should tell you that an \$8 per square foot product should not be as good as a \$25 per square foot product - right. We can tell you very plainly that an \$8 per square foot product will be a poor skating product - but might be fine for shooting pucks. Don't expect to purchase a low end product and then be able to glide on the product very well. For home use a very decent product can be purchased for \$12 - 14 per square foot. This is likely a product that you will be happy with for a long time.

The best and most educated sellers will explain fully all the different characteristics in a manner that consumers can relate to and believe. You will spend a good chunk of change even on the worst products, so isn't it worth it to understand what you are buying?

Author Resource: - For more information on synthetic ice, hockey training, and figure skating products please visit <http://www.IcePro.ca>

IcePro offers expert advice and free estimates for your home or commercial rink project - regardless of size or application.

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