

With all the new Pickleball players, one question that keeps coming up is “What are ‘non-marking Court shoes’ and why are they required on The Villages courts?”

First, we want to prevent court damage. Court shoes – known as Tennis shoes in most stores - are “non-marking” and do not damage the court surface. Black marks are indicative of the wrong shoes being worn. Wearing proper shoes prevents unsightly damage to courts which can distract players - as well as change the court surface. If you are a spectator, please sit outside the fenced in area if wearing anything else.

Second, for your protection. Tennis shoes have a smooth sole, facilitating lateral (side to side) movement, critical in both Pickleball and Tennis. Running shoes and cross trainers have ridges and are designed to go forward, but we move in every direction. Those ridges tend to stick to the court surface when moving backward or sideways. Court shoes have a blunter toe and more support in the ankle area, providing greater stability, which help prevent trips. No slip-on shoes are allowed on the court. Shoes with rounded soles (like Sketchers) should NEVER be worn!

Check our website for store recommendations, as well as links to websites with more details on the importance of wearing proper footwear.