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## Installation and Handling Instructions for using LAWN MAT series MUD-TRAKS®

**MUD-TRAKS®** Lawn Mats are a light-weight, high strength "portable roadway" system for "Rubber Tire/Tracked Vehicles". They are utilized by Cemeteries, Landscape Contractors and similar construction trades. Their design provides a quick installation "roadway" that will protect the lawns and landscape areas from damage by backhoe or other construction vehicle traffic. **MUD-TRAKS®** are made from a space-age, composite fiberglass material that is strong enough to "bridge" the weight of a vehicle over soft ground areas. They are engineered to provide years of service.

**MUD-TRAKS®** is actually a system, made up of several products, with sizes to fit a variety of situations. **MUD-TRAKS®** are the mats and are used to build the "roadway" system. **OUTRIGGER/STABILIZER PADS** are placed under the backhoe outriggers to keep from tearing up the lawn. **GRAVE/TRENCH COVERS** provide a quick and safe way to cover an excavation. **DOZER MATS** go under the backhoe bucket to protect the lawn.

Contractors and Cemeteries have used plywood for years, because there wasn't anything else. But, now plywood is the most expensive solution in the long run because it doesn't last. Using **MUD-TRAKS®**, you save (4) four ways: First, they last for years because they don't absorb water and rot; Second, they are strong and have a good traction surface, no downtime; Third, they prevent damage to the lawn by spreading the vehicle load; and Fourth, the light weight and handling characteristics makes them easy to use and prevents injury before it happens.

1. Many trades use plywood as full sheets or cut them down the middle for a 2' wide board. We make 45" wide, 32" wide, & 22.5" wide' X 8' & 6' long models. Mats are sized by the width of the tires. Mats should be at least 1/3 wider than the widest tire. **MUD-TRAKS®** are going to last a long time, get the size you really need.

A full sheet of 3/4" plywood weights 67 lbs. dry and 118 lbs. soaking wet. Wet plywood is slippery, hard to pick up, takes (2) workers to handle it, loses 30% of its strength and, no matter what you do, its going to rot.

**MUD-TRAKS®** are light enough for (1) worker to carry, has convenient hand cutouts or rope handles, a textured surface on both sides for traction, does not absorb water, does not rot, and comes with optional pins for "staking" to the ground when driving up steep grades or hillsides.



2. When laying **MUD-TRAKS®**, overlap them about 6". Always overlap in the direction you're traveling. The mat you're driving on holds down the tip of the next mat so the "tips" don't flex up and catch on the underside of the vehicle. Tip control is 95% of field problems.
3. Use low gear and a steady accelerator. If the operator guns the motor, the tractor wins every time. Don't stand behind vehicles working on mats.
4. **MUD-TRAKS®** are "traction" mats and have a very rough surface on both sides. Sharp edges have been reduced with a "New Manufacturing Process" but we recommend hand and eye protection.
5. Clean the mats with a water hose and elbow grease.
6. Even though we use UV inhibitors in the mats, the sun finally gets to them. Life expectancy can be greatly increased if the mats are stored inside or covered from direct sunlight.
7. **Outrigger/Stabilizer Pads**. Backhoes come with one of three style of outrigger. Either a flat steel plate, a rubber "street pad", or some type of "dig in" device so the tractor can secure itself to the ground. For the rubber "street pad" or a combination unit, you can use **MUD-TRAKS®** or our **Jack Pads** under the outrigger to keep from tearing up the lawn. Sizes 24" square or 32" square.
8. **Dozer Mats**. Are used under steel track machines to cross a road. They also work under the front bucket of a backhoe to keep from tearing up the ground. Saves its' cost many times over.
9. **Grave/Trench Covers**. For temporary cover of an open excavation, so people won't fall in, we make a "Cored Cover" out of the same material as **MUD-TRAKS®**. Place the **Grave /Trench Cover** so there's at least 6" of overlap on the ground on all sides. Pin the cover to the ground with the "stakes" so it is stabilized. **Grave/Trench Covers** are manufactured in several sizes to meet your needs. This cover will hold the weight of several people. For safety purposes you'll still need to place a warning sign.
10. How many should you buy? The easy answer is, "buy all you want, we'll make more". The logical answer is, " enough to replace the plywood you're using now".

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