



Installation and Handling Instructions using MUD-TRAKS® for Cemeteries

MUD-TRAKS® is a lightweight, high strength "portable roadway" system for cemeteries. They are designed to provide a quick installation "roadway" that will protect the lawn from damage by backhoe and truck traffic. MUD-TRAKS® are made from space age, composite fiberglass materials that are strong enough to "bridge" over soft ground areas. This is particularly helpful in older cemeteries when driving over sections that are prone to cave-ins. MUD-TRAKS® do not absorb water, rot, mildew, or break under heavy loads. They are designed for years of service.

Our product line is actually a system, made up of several products, with sizes to fit a variety of situations, that together, provide a "Portable Roadway" that protects the lawn and makes the work more efficient. MUD-TRAKS® are the flat panels used to build the "roadway". Outrigger Pads are put under the backhoe stabilizers, Dozer Mats are rubber pads that are placed under the front bucket, and both are used to prevent lawn damage. Grave Covers are very rigid panels used to cover open graves to prevent accidents or injury.

Cemeteries have used plywood for years, primarily because there wasn't anything else available. But, as prices have gone higher, it's very evident that plywood is no longer a cost effective road building material. MUD-TRAKS® use engineered materials to create permanent, effective traction mat systems. They are designed to handle the loads, have a traction surface, lifting aids like hand cutouts or rope handles, a method for connecting mats, don't absorb water or dry rot, have UV protection from sun damage, light enough to be handled by men in the field without injury, and provide years of service. In short, they are REAL tools, designed to DO the job.

1. The different Models of MUD-TRAKS® and which one is right for you?

N2296HD-CM (22" X 8'), with (2) hand cutouts and optional staking kit, weight 28 lbs.

N3296HD-CM (32" X 8'), with (2) hand cutouts and optional staking kit, weight 40 lbs.

N4596HD-CM (45" X 8'), with (4) rope handles and optional staking kit, weight 60 lbs.

Most cemeteries are using plywood either as full sheets or cutting them down the middle for a 2' wide board. A full size sheet of 3/4" plywood weighs 67 lbs. dry, and 118 lbs. soaking wet. Wet plywood is slippery, and hard to pick up because there are no handles. A full sheet of plywood requires (2) two men to handle it. For these reasons the most popular MUD-TRAKS® model is 32" wide. Light enough for (1) one man, 40lbs., with hand cutouts for carrying, has a textured surface on both sides for traction, and optional pins for "staking" the mat to the ground when traversing steep hills.

Model N4596HD-CM is for those operations that need full size sheets to spread load over a wider area because the cemetery grounds are extremely wet, or the practice of the cemetery crew is to lay the mat sideways because they want to drive across the width instead of down the length.

Hillsides are tough. Even though we provide optional "stakes", sometimes they aren't the complete solution. You can add "spikes" to the mats. Spikes are just bolts that go thru the mats and stick down into the ground



when the tractor drives over it and automatically "spikes" it to the ground. The only negative is the extra hardware catches on each other when loading and unloading.

2. Outrigger Pads. Backhoes come with one of three style of stabilizer. Either a flat steel plate, a rubber "street pad", or some type of "pin" or "digging" device so the tractor can secure itself to the ground. There is a fourth style, and that is a combination unit of a street pad and dig-in style that flips from one to the other. For hillsides, you're going to have to use the dig-in style. But, if you can switch to the rubber "street pad" or the combination unit, you can use MUD-TRAKS® or our Outrigger Pads under the stabilizer to keep from tearing up the lawn.

3. Dozer Mats. I know you don't use bulldozers, but these are rubber mats that are perfect for under the front steel bucket to protect the ground. The bucket will slide on top of the rubber without tearing it up. A simple product that will save it's cost many times over.

4. C-Channels. We've tried to address an age-old problem of cemeteries, and that is temporarily covering an open grave so people can't accidentally fall in. This is a tricky one in that there are some national safety standards that have to be met. We make a "C" Channel 3" wide X 54" long out of the same material as the MUD-TRAKS® so it's strong. Lay 4 or 5 of these across the open grave and step on them to set them into the ground. Lay (2) two 32" wide MUD-TRAKS® across these channels and a third piece across the top so there is plenty of overlap. Pin the mats to the ground with "stakes", and you've got yourself a cover that will hold the weight of as many people as can stand on the mats.

5. One Piece Grave Covers. If you don't want to keep track of the several parts it takes to make a grave cover using the C-Channels in item #4, we've made single piece grave covers. (4' X 9'), and (5' X 10'). The larger piece is used if there are cave-in issues in the soil.

6. When laying MUD-TRAKS® overlap them about 6". Always overlap in the direction you're driving. We want the mat you're driving on to hold down the tip of the next mat so the "tips" don't flex up and catch on the underside of the backhoe. Tip control is 90% of the problems that can damage mats. That means picking up the end of the "ground" mat and sliding the tip of the new mat underneath.

7. Use low gear and a steady accelerator. If the driver guns the motor, the tractor wins every time. Don't stand behind the tractor when using mats.

8. MUD-TRAKS® are "traction" mats and have a very rough surface. Hand protection is required.

9. Clean mats with a water hose and elbow grease.

10. 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.

11. How many should you buy? The easy answer is, "buy all you want, we'll make more". The logical answer is, "replace the plywood you're using".

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