



## Installation and Handling Instructions for Structure Movers Using MUD-TRAKS®

1. In each industry we design MUD-TRAKS® for that specific job. For Structure Movers we have settled on (3) three mat sizes as being most appropriate, and (1) one Jack Pad.
  - Model N2296HDS-SM (2' wide x 8' long), weight 46 lbs. With rope handles or hand cutouts.
  - Model N3272HDS-SM (4' wide x 6' long), weight 50 lbs. With rope handles and auxiliary holes.
  - Model N4596HDS-SM (45" wide x 8' long), weight 95 lbs. With rope handles and auxiliary holes.
  - Jack Pad, Model 3232-SM, (32" square), with rope handles, weight 30 lbs.
2. So which model is right for your situation? All the mats are the same level of strength. The decision as to which mat is in the handling. One man easily handles the 2' wide mat with the rope handle. But remember the size of the footprint is what spreads load. So with a 2' wide mat you're giving up footprint size. For running straight, this mat will be equivalent to the planks you're already using.
3. The 32" wide mat is 6' long and gives us the larger footprint size we need to spread load, and the short length makes the mat easier to handle by one man. This is the most popular size.
4. The 4' X 8' mat spreads load most effectively and gives us the width we need for maneuvering the house in turns or extremely wet ground. The tires stay on top of the mat and don't dig in. Generally, two men are required to handle this mat.
5. How much load can they carry? Actually the ground carries the weight. All we're doing is spreading the load over a large area. When weight is put on the mat, it is transferred along the structure of the glass fibers in the mat. The effective footprint is at least 2 to 3 times larger than when using planks. As a Rule of Thumb, on any ground you would feel comfortable using planks, feel assured that MUD-TRAKS® will carry the load better.
6. Bridging Ditches. You'll still have to fill the ditch with timbers or solid materials. Use MUD-TRAKS® over the top of the fill to spread load over the entire width. The Key is to have solid fill that will not sink and is actually doing most of the work of carrying the load.



6128-F Brookshire Blvd • Charlotte, NC 28216  
phone 704 398 0007 toll free 800 762 8267 fax 704 398 0540

e-mail: [sales@mudtraks.com](mailto:sales@mudtraks.com)

[www.mudtraks.com](http://www.mudtraks.com)

7. MUD-TRAKS<sup>®</sup> can be used under the drive wheels of the tractor. The mats are textured on both sides. The Topside gives excellent traction for the tire. The Bottom grips the ground to keep it from sliding out. There is a limit to how much side pressure they can be expected to resist between tire and ground. At some point you will have to winch the tractor.
8. Do not stand behind the vehicle when using mats.
9. We use rope handles because they are easily replaced. Fabricate spare rope handles and carry them in the truck so that when they break they can be replaced immediately.
10. Tie a 5' long, large diameter rope in one of the auxiliary holes (Model 4896HDS). This makes it easier to drag the mats out from under the house.
11. Clean the mats with elbow grease and a water hose.
12. Even though we use UV inhibitors in the mats, the sun finally gets to them. The life expectancy can be greatly increased if the mats are stored inside or covered from direct sunlight.
13. When laying mats, they can be butted end to end. If the ground is particularly muddy or soft, overlap them about 6". Always overlap in the direction of the move. That way the mat the wheels are on controls the tip of the next mat.
14. Use the mats from the very beginning. Do not create a rut and then start using the mats. If there is a rut over 2" deep, fill it in. The mats can actually tolerate ruts deeper than that, but they are an investment and you don't want your crew to develop bad habits.
15. Yes! We make all sizes of mats: shorter, longer, wider, etc. And if they need to be stronger, we'll make them stronger. Color, shape, textured surface; we do it all. Whatever your job, we can customize MUD-TRAKS<sup>®</sup> to do the job.
16. MUD-TRAKS<sup>®</sup> are made from a composite fiberglass material. Eye and hand protection are required. These are traction mats, they are too rough to be handled barehanded, use gloves.

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