



## Livestock Mud Mat™ - *Basic* Installation Instructions <sup>(1)</sup>

One of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the agricultural industry for managing mud in areas highly trafficked by livestock is to use a geotextile fabric to create firm footing in areas such as feedlots.



This guideline covers the installation of Livestock Mud Mat™ in livestock traffic areas such as feedlots or loafing areas. If contradictions occur, always follow the instruction of the project engineer.

**1. Preparation of the surface** is required to install the geotextile fabric on a firm subbase. Excavate vertical edges around the perimeter. Fill in any depressions with suitable granular material.

**2. Place geotextile fabric** loosely over the excavated area. Stretch the fabric so that there are no wrinkles. Wrinkles prevent adequate distribution of loads and could compromise the pad. Outside edges and joints of the fabric should be pinned about every 5' with 6" metal staples made of 8-gauge wire or similar. Minimum lap at all joints is 12 inches. Cut off or fold under any excess fabric.

### 3. Installation Cover Material Options:

- **GOOD:** Install surfacing materials such as cinders, tree bark, sawdust, brick chips, shredded rubber, etc.; the minimum thickness is 6 inches and must be renewed as animals remove the surface.
- **BETTER (Most Common):** For longer lasting results, install 6 to 8 inches of compacted fine aggregate material. Coarse aggregate is 2 ½ inches to ¾ inch in size. Fine aggregate can range from ¾ inch to 1/200 inch. Sufficient fines (1/100 inch or less) should be present in the fine aggregate to promote bonding of the material when compacted.
- **Best:** For the most long-term solution, concrete is used as the surface treatment in areas where heavy equipment and loading is expected; the thickness of the concrete must be a minimum of 4 inches.

Note: Use caution when dumping the first loads of cover material to avoid ripping or wrinkling the fabric. If the fabric is wrinkled or damaged, it will not be as effective as a reinforcement material.

**4. The finished surface** of the heavy use area (if not concrete) must be slightly mounded (1/4 to 1/2 inch per foot) relative to the surrounding ground surface to promote proper drainage.



For more information, refer to the USDA recommendations for Heavy Use Area Protection <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/TN/HeavyUseArea030404final.pdf>

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