

A-GRAM



AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER SUPPORT AGENCY

02-04

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PORTABLE WHEEL TRACKS (MUD-TRAKS)

SYNOPSIS:

Presently, when we drive over soft lawns or water-soaked areas, we use heavy, hard-to-handle materials (AM-2 mat or plywood) to reduce turf damage and rutting. These materials have poor traction as soon as they get wet and muddy.

APPLICATION:

MUD-TRAKS is a portable roadway system designed to prevent turf damage or surface rutting when driving heavy vehicles over lawns or water-logged areas. This system of super strength, lightweight panels/mats is made from engineered composite fiberglass materials. The mats are designed to withstand heavy, rubber-tired vehicles without breaking, splintering, or folding and are rigid enough to spread weight over a wide area to prevent tire ruts or vehicles from sinking.

MUD-TRAKS:

The Management Equipment Evaluation Program (MEEP) recently tested two



MUD-TRAKS products at two Air Force bases.

At Langley AFB, we tested Model 4296HD. The mats measure 42" x 8', have lifting ropes and hand cutouts for handling, and weigh 70 lbs. The manufacturer included bushings for bolting together and staking kits. At Mountain Home AFB, we tested Model 3272HDS, 32" x 6' mats weighing 65 lbs that come with lifting ropes.

All mats are textured, top and bottom, for good traction and ground gripping.

The mats were used 26 times as: (1) a portable road for vehicles on soft ground/turf, where decorative rock gardens and sprinkler systems had been installed; (2) temporary roadways for stuck vehicles; and (3) outrigger support pads for mobile cranes and backhoes to prevent damage and provide a stable base.

Large numbers of vehicles, including tractor-trailers, five-cubic-yard concrete trucks with loads, backhoes, pickup trucks, forklifts, electrical line trucks, utility vehicles, and front-end loaders, used the mats. The mats were very easy to handle and did well protecting the integrity of work sites. Protecting the site is particularly important when working in lawns, rock gardens, or other highly visible locations.

MUD-TRAKS mats can significantly reduce labor and equipment requirements, as well as the amount of support material required. We saved from two to six labor hours (average five hours) per task, with little to no ground/turf repair. In most cases damage was very minimal.

SOURCE:

Models 3272HDS and 4296HD MUD-TRAKS are made by SVE Sales, 6128-F Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte NC 28216; 1-800-762-8267 or (704) 398-0007; web site: www.mudtraks.com.

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