



MUD MANAGEMENT



The spring season brings with it many changes to the landscape, the days are longer, the weather warms up, plants start to grow and almost every farm or acreage has to deal with mud.

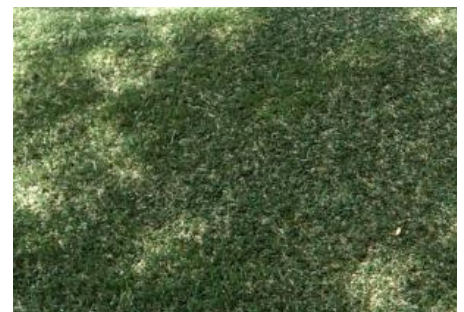
Mud often forms in high traffic area such as barn entrances, gates and outdoor feeding and watering areas. It is a breeding ground for bacteria and fungi that can result in thrush and mud fever in horses. Although you may not be able to eliminate mud entirely, you can significantly reduce the amount on your property with proper maintenance.

One of the first steps to preventing mud from forming is to decrease the amount of organic matter in high traffic areas that are susceptible. Regularly picking up manure and leftover hay from the ground will help to reduce the buildup of mud in those areas.

The next step is to make sure the ground is draining properly so that the water will not pool there. Experts in the field, System Fencing recommend the use of base stabilization tiles that are designed as a grid-like structure, sometimes referred to as a “checker board” system. This tile can be installed in the area that is susceptible to mud to give that area better stabilization. To install the tiles, you should scrape back the soil currently in the area you are working on to create a level base. Once the area is level, the tiles can then be put down to cover the affected area. Once this grid is installed, topsoil, sand and gravel can be added inside and on top of the grid to suit the desired purpose. This helps to prevent the turf or grass from settling and collapsing from underneath itself, while promoting filtration.

With planting of vegetation, such as grass, within the grid system the end product is a grass or turf covered footing. The grid system protects the grass roots and reduces storm water runoff, resulting in a very durable grass area. These can be the perfect solution to keep high traffic areas level and dry and keep the grass growing! Some tiles are manufactured from recycled tires, which give each one the durability to withstand high traffic, no matter the weather conditions. They also offer support and a constant level surface allowing optimum drainage and great footing for livestock to stand and walk on.

Well draining areas lessen the chance of mud forming and make high traffic areas much easier to navigate. Keeping mud at a minimum is a great way to make property maintenance easier and safer for yourself and your horses.



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