

GroundMate®

Installation and handling

General Guidance

GroundMate is manufactured from 100% recycled polyethylene and is very durable. Mats have some degree of flexibility, allowing them to take up the contours of the ground. However, the mats must always be supported and cannot be used alone for bridging purposes.

Ambient temperature may cause the mats to stiffen in colder weather but they should not become brittle.

The mats are typically coloured grey to reflect sunlight and avoid heat build-up behind the mat on grassed surfaces which can cause singeing.

Suitability

GroundMate is intended for temporary ground protection for pedestrian and light to medium weight vehicular traffic on medium to firm ground.

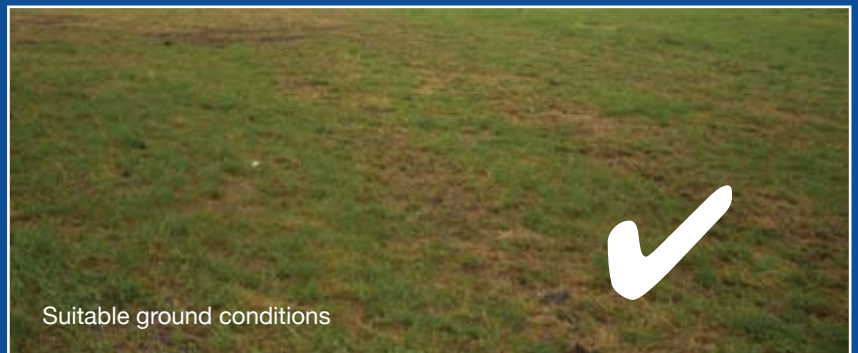
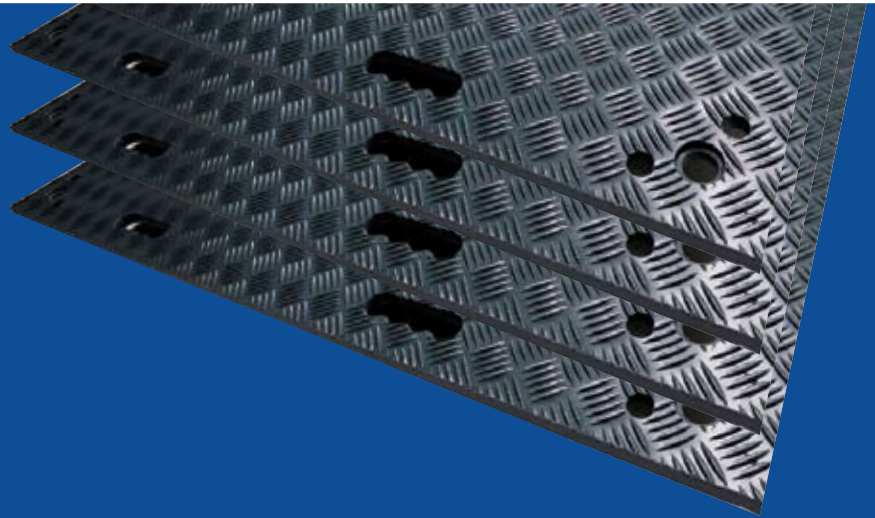
It is primarily designed to allow vehicles or materials to be transported over grassed surfaces.

The mats rely on the underlying ground for strength. The mats will not support vehicles in boggy, rutted or very soft ground conditions. Further information and guidance is available from the Centriforce sales team.

Although the mats are primarily intended for vehicle use, they may also be used by pedestrians. Sensible footwear, suitable for field conditions, is recommended together with appropriate warnings for people crossing the boards. If intended for use as a walking area, the reverse side may be preferred.

Usage

Once installed, GroundMate can be used for prolonged periods depending on the intended requirement. Vehicles should be instructed to pass over the mats at slow speeds and where possible to avoid aggressive steering which can cause shearing.



Installation

GroundMate is normally supplied on specially developed pallets containing 30 sheets. Ideally the pallet should be moved to ground level to ease the removal of mats. Care should be taken if it is necessary to remove mats from a pallet stored on a vehicle. The mats are nominally around 40 kgs in weight and should be handled carefully if lifted. (Follow normal manual handling guidance). Two handholds are cut into both ends of each mat to aid movement. Dragging hooks are (optionally) available for moving boards over a distance. GroundMate can be laid either as two-wheel tracks or as a continuous mat laid 'side by side' (via either the long or short edge). Mats have a pre-drilled hole pattern which will support two different types of connecting system. The countersunk holes (Fig. 2) are designed for a specially developed, bespoke GroundMate fixing system. The smaller, standard holes will support a simple 'top-hat' fixing system (Fig. 3). The choice of joining system is down to the installer, but we would particularly recommend using the bespoke connector system when the mats need to be joined in both directions. The use of a power screwdriver will aid installation. Mats can also be loose laid or overlapped if intended for short term use.

Removal

When use is complete, the mats should be removed and stacked or re-palletised. Depending on fixing system used:

- A.** Loosen and remove bolts; remove fixing bracket; drag or lift board to its storage or transport location. The bright yellow colour of the connectors should aid collection and removal, but care should be taken to collect all the bolts and washers.
- B.** If 'top-hat' system is used, lift board to vertical and 'kick' the base away from the remaining board.
- C.** Any kinking or undulation should disappear when the boards are restacked or palletised.

The boards can be cleaned by means of a hose or pressure washer and brushed. Re-use as desired. The boards will not absorb water.

Manufacturer's Note:

The information given in this leaflet is true to the best of our knowledge and is provided for guidance only. Users however must establish for themselves that the material is suitable for their specific purpose. No liability will be accepted for any loss or injury resulting from its use. Qualified engineering advice should be sought regarding bearing capacity of the ground where GroundMate is to be used. The manufacturer's policy is one of continuous improvement and development. We reserve the right to change the specification without notice.



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Installation

1. Drag mats into approx. position by means of dragging hooks or similar.
2. Depending on pattern of installation, use 2-way or 4-way connectors and offer board to connector, hand tighten bolts.
3. When using 'top-hat' connectors, push into one side of board and offer the second board to the protruding pin.
4. Repeat until track is completed and tighten bolts.



A



B



C



Call Customer Service on:
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or visit www.centriforce.com



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