

Trowel-On Rubber Coating Preserves Trailer Floors

A trowel-on rubberized floor system for horse trailers eliminates cleaning rubber mats, providing a cushioned surface and preventing corrosion.

"There's nothing else like it," says Kristofer Parmer, operations manager for WERM (We Eliminate Rubber Mats) Flooring Systems, based in Oklahoma City. "It solves a huge problem in the industry by eliminating the hassle of rubber mats."

Robert Winchester, who worked in the pool industry, developed the flexible urethane and rubber product. WERM uses a mix of recycled and virgin rubber.

"It's tougher than a rubber mat but has the same cushioning factor (as a rubber mat)," says Parmer.

Trained dealers have special equipment to mix the ingredients. They trowel it on at 1/2 to 5/8 in. thick. It takes about 1 1/2 hours to finish the floor in a three-horse trailer. After four hours the trailer can be moved. In 48 hours it's ready for horses. The non-slip surface smells like citrus.

Since WERM is nonporous, Parmer recommends people spread wood chips to soak up urine.

Scott Terpstra of Allegan, Michigan, owns horses and was impressed enough to become a dealer/installer for WERM in 2006. A pro-

fessional floor installer by trade, he says there's a huge market for the flooring system.

"It completely seals and sticks," Terpstra says. "Urine can't get to the aluminum and oxidize, so it adds longevity to the trailer."

Since the product works with wood, concrete and other metals, horse owners are also having WERM flooring installed in stalls and arenas. Terpstra recently worked as a consultant at a University of Minnesota equine facility. He says he also sees a future for the product in milking parlors.

In areas where dealers are available, many horse trailer companies offer WERM flooring as an option. But the flooring can also be applied to older trailers.

Costs vary according to trailer size and condition, and area of the country, but start out at about \$10/sq. ft.

Based on trailers that had WERM flooring installed five years ago, it is very durable, Parmer says. It comes with a 2-year limited warranty. The company sends patching material to customers if something knocks a hole in the floor.

"Once people have this they'll never go back to mats," Terpstra says.

Parmer is open to more dealers; WERM provides installation training.



"It solves a huge problem in the industry by eliminating the hassle of rubber mats," says Kristofer Parmer about his trowel-on, rubberized floor system for horse trailers.

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Rubber coating is a mix of recycled and virgin rubber.

No-Hydraulic Bale Accumulator Easy To Use

"It's built heavy and handles bales of different lengths, yet you can pull it with an ATV," says Steve Crutchfield of Bascom, Florida, about his Hay Master bale accumulator.

He came up with the idea after helping his brother-in-law load and unload bales from a bale wagon using hydraulic-powered equipment.

"Hydraulic machines require consistent-size bales," he says. Since balers don't always bale the same length, that means constantly changing the accumulator's hydraulic sensor.

"We use vertical levers so the chamber doesn't close off. It's very forgiving," Crutchfield explains. "It's the heaviest-duty ground-driven accumulator on the market." No hydraulics, micrositches, chains or pulleys means less down time with timing, adjusting and maintenance. A series of levers simply guides bales into four chambers as the accumulator is pulled through the field at speeds up to 10 mph.

Crutchfield offers both an 8 and a 12-bale

accumulator. Both can be pulled with equipment as small as a truck or ATV, with the minimum of a 30 hp engine. The accumulator runs off to the side. Besides gathering bales from a field, it can also be hooked up directly behind any model square baler.

Crutchfield says he sells to many people who put up horse hay as well as large producers who bale straw.

Crutchfield sells through dealers in several states and also sells direct. Cost for the 8-bale accumulator is \$6,800 plus freight. Cost for the 12-bale accumulator is \$7,800 plus freight. He also sells bale grapples to pick up the grouped bales. The 8-bale grapple fits loaders that are 40 hp or more and sells for \$2,200 plus freight. All products have a 3-year warranty. Request a free DVD to see the accumulator in action.

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No-hydraulic bale accumulator uses a series of levers to guide bales into four chambers as accumulator is pulled through field (above). It can be pulled with equipment as small as a pickup or ATV, or hooked up directly behind a small square baler.



Bolt-On 3-Pt. Hitch

A desire for a 3-pt. hitch for a Deere M turned into a fast-growing business for Brian and Bill Thomas. Brian had the M, and his dad Bill had the expertise to design a 3-pt. hitch. Now they market it and other products via their Redlandhill website and through about 160 dealers across the country.

The original Cat. I 3-pt. hitch design for the John Deere M is available for \$459. Its simple bolt-on installation requires no welding or modifications and has since been adapted to a number of John Deere lawn and garden tractors. They include the 318, 322, 330, 332, 420 and 430 and sell for \$450.

"One of our customers brought his JD 318 in one day and asked if we could make a 3-pt. hitch for it," says Brian. "Since then, they've been flying off the shelf."

Unlike Deere's original kits, which are no longer available, the Redlandhill kits connect to the original rockshaft. The vertical lift links can be positioned for maximum lifting power

or for a greater range of lifting, up to 16 in. from low to high. Outside mounted stabilizer chains don't interfere with implement change, and the top link can be positioned at three different heights to match a range of implements.

"We built the 3-pt hitch, but that meant I lost the use of my factory drawbar, so my dad designed the Handi Hitch," explains Brian. "It worked great, and in the past four years we've sold about 5,000 of them alone."

The Handi Hitch is equipped with a clevis hitch and both 2 and 1 7/8-in. dia. balls and is priced at \$131. It can also be equipped with a bolt-on standard 2-in. receiver hitch. ADura Hitch with a single predrilled hole is priced at \$110. Both hitches are available in 20-in. and 26-in. lengths to fit a wide variety of Category I 3-pt. hitches. They also can be equipped with Redlandhill designed and manufactured boom poles and a carryall.

The JD lawn and garden version and the



Cat. I 3-pt. hitch is designed to bolt onto a number of Deere lawn and garden tractors.

original 3-pt. for the JD M, as well as the Handi Hitch, Dura Hitch and accessories, are made from scratch at the company's new facility.

The company buys hydraulic cylinders and modifies them to produce two other popular products. They are hydraulic top and side links for Category I 3-pt. and hydraulic top links for Category II 3-pt. hitches.

Redlandhill also makes a Weld Up kit to

convert implements to a Category I 3-pt. hitch. The 1/2-in. by 2-in. steel kit is priced at \$59. They also distribute a variety of 3-pt. conversion kits for larger John Deere, Ford and Farmall models.

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