

## Maximizing the life of your mini excavator and track loader rubber tracks

You can extend the life of your tracks and undercarriage parts with smart operating and transport techniques and a comprehensive maintenance program.

### Operating Tips and Techniques:

#### Remember to check undercarriage parts:

When replacing your rubber tracks, check all undercarriage and drive system components for signs of wear. Sprockets, rollers and idlers are often overlooked, and worn or loose parts can cause premature track wear and reduced track life. Replacing these parts at the same time as the track is replaced may be a good idea.

#### Track tension:

The most important factor that a machine operator can control is track tension and adjustment. Incorrect track tension can accelerate track wear, increase downtime, damage turf or property, and at worst cause complete drive system failure. Every machine varies, so check your owners manual for tension guidelines and suggested adjustment frequency. It is typically a good rule of thumb to check track tension every 8-10 operating hours.

#### Clean the undercarriage:

Keep rocks, soil, mud and debris out of your undercarriage by frequently cleaning out the undercarriage components. Packed in soil and debris will prevent proper drive train operation and significantly reduce wear life or cause "de-tracking".



#### Reduce high-speed and reverse travel:

As you might expect, high speed operation accelerates wear on all undercarriage components, as well as your machine itself. Track wear is directly proportionate to speed. Speed equals stress, and distance travelled determines wear. Plan your site and work carefully to make all travel productive. Reverse operation also accelerates wear. The only time that the track links rotate against sprocket teeth while under load is in reverse travel. Try to minimize reverse operation.

#### Minimize travel on paved surfaces and on sharp edges:

Try to limit travel on concrete and asphalt surfaces, especially slopes, dips and transitions. Be extremely careful when traversing curbs and concrete edges as these focus machine weight on a narrow track area. Attempting to turn while crossing a curb can cause track and undercarriage failure. Broken concrete, block or brick piles and other sharp edges can also cause cuts and tears in your tracks, and reduce track life.



#### Proper Storage:

When storing a machine or tracks for a long period of time, keep tracks away from direct sun and weather elements.

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