



# SOIL RETENTION

---

## PRODUCTS INC.

### DRIVABLE GRASS® PERMEABLE PAVING SYSTEM MAINTENANCE GUIDE

#### \*FOR GRASS INFILL APPLICATIONS\*

As for all grass paved areas, regular maintenance is required to minimize wear and tear and maximize successful results. The following maintenance and repair guidelines will enable your maintenance staff to achieve healthy and beautiful grass areas for years to come.

#### I. GENERAL MAINTENANCE

**Drivable Grass®** areas, with grass infill, require basically the same care as other grassed areas. The same attention must be paid to irrigating, mowing and fertilizing as to standard lawn/grass area. The more frequent traffic (pedestrian or vehicular), the more stress is placed on the turf; hence frequent and careful observation by maintenance staff is required to initiate immediate response to any potential problem areas.

#### II. TURF MAINTENANCE

A. **Irrigation:** Before installing **Drivable Grass®**, the best irrigation option needs to be chosen for the application. There are 2 main options:

1. **Sprinkler irrigation:** this type needs to be placed below the road base, underneath the Drivable Grass mats. The Drivable Grass muffins can be easily cut or individually removed allowing for pop-up riser operation. This type in general uses more water, as a lot of the water evaporates. This type of system is more time consuming to replace when needed, as the Drivable Grass mats will need to be removed for access.
2. **Drip irrigation:** the irrigation lines are installed after the **Drivable Grass®** mats are put in place. The lines fit in the groves of the **Drivable Grass®** mats. On average less water is used with this irrigation system. This type can also be used without wasteful spray damaging objects above ground. However, grass leaves do not get cleansed from water coming from above and needs temporary overspray to establish grass.

Regular irrigation is necessary in most geographical areas. Irrigation should be adjusted based on seasonal needs.

B. **Mowing:** When the **Drivable Grass®** mats are properly infilled, the wheels of the lawn mower will ride on top of the surface while the grass is cut 1-3 inches above. Move your Drivable Grass as you would your regular lawn, about once a week. A lawn mower with a grass catcher (bag) is recommended to reduce thatch.

C. **Fertilization:** Treat all areas as needed, we recommend a minimum of two times per year to keep grass growing at a healthy pace. Do not use fertilizers with clay fillers, as they will clog. Instead use slow release fertilizers or liquid concentrates; consider compost tea.

1. **Other chemicals:** Herbicides and insecticides should be applied only as needed in response to site specific needs / problem areas.



# SOIL RETENTION

---

## PRODUCTS INC.

### III. MAINTENANCE SOLUTIONS FOR POSSIBLE ISSUES WITH TURF

#### A. Thatch Removal:

1. Lawns can develop layers of thatch containing clippings, leaves, and other organic materials, which cause a loss of percolation. Once the layer of thatch is more than ½-inch thick, it needs to be addressed. This layer of thatch needs to be removed for the long-term health of the turf. Do a small test area to make sure you are not damaging the **Drivable Grass**® pavers when thatching.
2. There are two conventional methods for the removal of thatch:
  - Spring tines on rotary mower blades are best for buildup from clippings.
  - Sod cutter set to a shallow depth to skim tops just above the **Drivable Grass**® pavers. (best for air/waterborne soil deposits over the long term).
3. After thatching, fill any bare areas by infilling with bedding mix and broadcasting grass seed evenly over the **Drivable Grass**® mats. Lightly cover with a seed cover. The seed cover should be light and not contain small particles that mix into the infill. The seed cover will be sucked up by the lawnmower once the lawn is established. Keep the lawn moist as the seeds sprout and watered often so germinating seeds never dry out.

#### B. Drainage:

1. Regular inspections and maintenance of drainage systems for adjacent landscaping, walkways, and driveways should be performed. Drain inlets should be cleared of debris to maintain proper function.
2. Large volumes of water should not be discharged onto **Drivable Grass**® installation areas unless specifically designed to handle the flow. Concentrated drainages from roofs and gutter downspouts should be directed to appropriate drainage collection devices.
3. Ponded and oversaturated areas should be addressed. Additional corrective drains may be needed to remedy areas.

#### C. Snow Removal:

1. Snowplow equipment operators should be educated about the underlying surface before beginning snow removal as part of maintenance agreement. Snowplow equipment should be fitted with Teflon runners, which will help keep the snowplow blade from damaging the **Drivable Grass**®.
2. For sites that will require the use of heavy-duty snowplowing machinery, install concrete curbs and/or strips as a level guide for the snowplow blade prior to installation of **Drivable Grass**® paving mats. **Drivable Grass**® should be depressed ¼" below the top of the curb/strip to protect the product from the snowplow blade.



# SOIL RETENTION

---

## PRODUCTS INC.

3. Do not use deicing agents, such as rock salt, that are known to damage concrete.

### D. Spills:

1. Small Spills - Naturally occurring microorganisms in turf can break down oil and "clean" spills before they infiltrate. Turf can accept oil drippings without harm to grass plants. Small amounts of diluted detergent (dishwashing concentrates) applied to minor spills will also help to reduce oil size particles, which helps with recovery time.
2. Large Spills - Large oil or antifreeze spills will effectively sterilize affected soils for years and prevent the growth of most vegetation. If needed, impacted bedding layer, base course, **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup> pavers, and grass should be replaced.

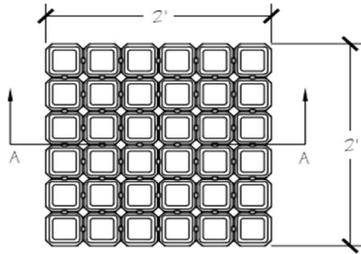
### E. Replacement of **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup> mats:

In the event some (or all) Drivable Grass mats need to be replaced, follow these steps:

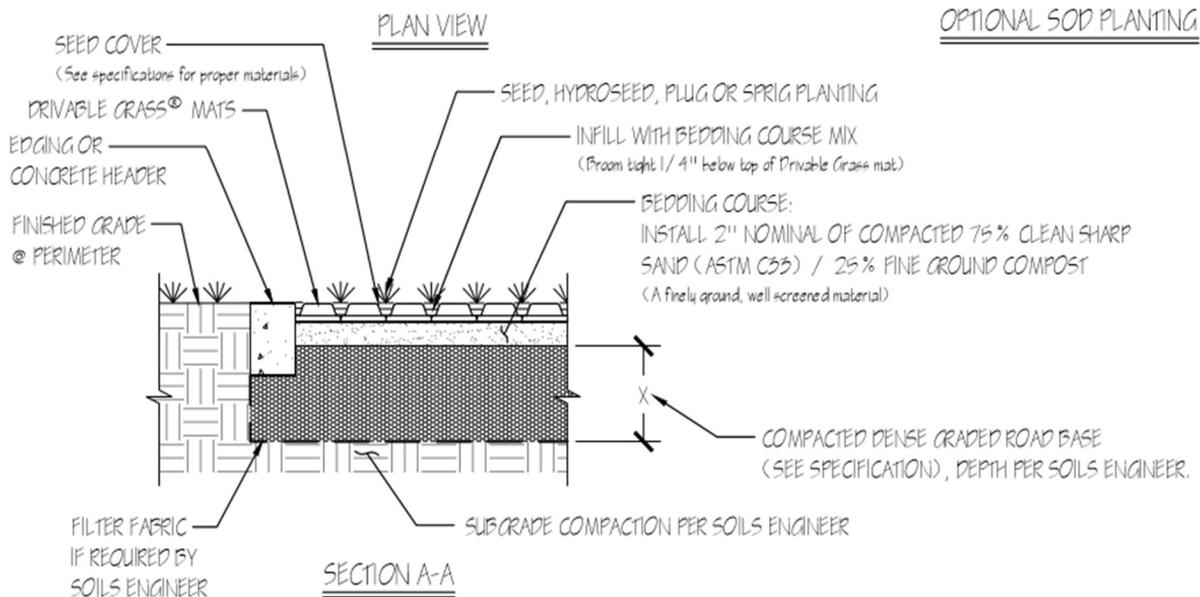
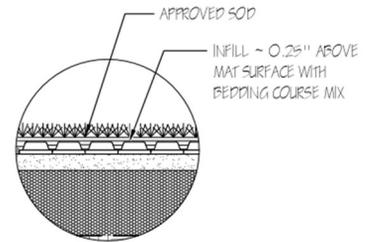
1. Remove grass from the tops and between the joints of the damaged area until you can see the flanges of the pavers. Continue to remove grass until you can see the flange perimeter of the **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup> mat(s) you intend to replace. Line trimmers and/or hand tools are recommended for grass removal.
2. Pull **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup> mats upward to remove, separating the roots from the 2" bedding course below the pavers.
3. If old bedding is contaminated or pulls up with mats, add a new bedding course and use a handheld tamping tool to compact if needed.
4. Install the new **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup> mat(s) and fill in joints with bedding course material. Whenever possible, replace full mats of **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup>.
5. Broadcast grass seed evenly over the **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup> mats. Lightly cover with a seed cover. The seed cover should be light and not contain small particles that mix into the infill and can be sucked up by the lawnmower. Keep seeds moist as they sprout, often watering so germinating seeds never dry out.
6. Keep traffic off until grass is established.
7. Refer to general install details if needed.



# SOIL RETENTION PRODUCTS INC.



Exposed flanges of pavers



## OPTIONAL SOD PLANTING



# **SOIL RETENTION**

---

**P R O D U C T S I N C .**

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- A. Please visit our website ([www.soilretention.com](http://www.soilretention.com)) for additional information on **Drivable Grass**<sup>®</sup>.
- B. Please contact our office with any questions or inquiries at [info@soilretention.com](mailto:info@soilretention.com) or call at (800) 346-7995.