



# Maintenance Guide

All outdoor products require a level of maintenance analysis. It is recommended to do a thorough analysis of your installed Organic-Lock blended aggregate 7 days after installation followed by monthly analysis to ensure no alterations are required.

## Erosion Damage

The greatest element of concern, is rainfall erosion. Often, this problem can be greatly reduced by adjusting the watershed areas surrounding the product itself. The best way to determine how the water is building up, is to examine your project area during a rainstorm. Learning where the water is coming from can lead to water diverting that dramatically reduces the stress on your surface.

Installing culverts, drains, cross slopes, crowns, or diverters can limit the majority of stress causing damage.

If you do experience erosion damage, first look at ways to get the water away or slow the water down, that's causing the damage...secondly, replace the lost material with new material following the guidelines below.

## Excess Loose Material

Directly after the installation, the aggregate surface will be smooth because of the weight of the fresh compaction. As the surface weathers with traffic and time, the larger particles of the aggregate will loosen on the surface to create a natural look and feel....which is often sought after. The loose aggregate particles on your surface should not exceed ¼" in depth.

Sweeping off the excess particles can be accomplished in areas where excess ¼" chip is not detrimental. These loose particles can also be shoveled and removed from site. The remaining surface will eventually chip loose again, so new material is recommended as a top up (see instructions below) after doing this more than once.

If material exceeds a ¼", redistribute the particles over a greater surface, scarify the surface to a depth of 1" and water to a 1" depth and compact with a roller of no less than 1000-lbs. Keep traffic off for 24-72 hours.

## Removing Debris

You can remove grass clippings, soil, debris or organic material by mechanically blowing or hand raking as needed.

## Snow Plowing

When plowing snow, use a shoe lift or rubber baffle on the blade of the plow to lift the blade up 1/4" off the surface. Extra precautions should always be taken after the first snow and last snow of the season, as this is when the material is most prone (i.e. the ground is not frozen).

# How to Mix Patch Material

Upon installation it's recommended to acquire a small amount of the raw unblended aggregate, along with a bag of Organic-Lock. This material should be stored and left for future maintenance.

When repair material is required, simply blend the raw aggregate material with 30lbs/ton of Organic-Lock.

## Adding newly blended Organic-Lock blended aggregate material to DAMAGED AREAS

Below the loose surface particles, the firmed material should be stable to resist erosion and support the intended traffic.

If this lower level material incurs damage, we recommend the following:

### Fixing Lightly Damaged Areas

Lightly damaged areas can be repaired by soaking, scarifying with a rake to 1-2 inches and compacting the scarified area using a roller or a hand tamper.

Adjusting Organic-Lock blended aggregate.

The Organic-Lock gel activates each time it comes in contact with water, which allows for the blended aggregate to be physically broken up, re-worked and returned back to its initial state.

This self-healing nature allows for a simplified maintenance procedure that leaves no sign of the maintenance itself.

For example:

If you have to run an irrigation line below your finished pathway, all you need to do is add water, dig the material up, put down your irrigation line, spread the material back in place, then water and compact it back to new.

### Fixing Larger or More Severely Damaged Areas

Excavate the damaged area to a depth of 2" to an approximate 50% increase in area (i.e. if your area is in a 4 foot radius circle, excavate a total of 6 feet in diameter).

Estimate amount of material lost or material needed to be topped up.

Add this amount of preblended Organic-Lock aggregate in the area.

Blend this newly blended aggregate in by one of the following methods:

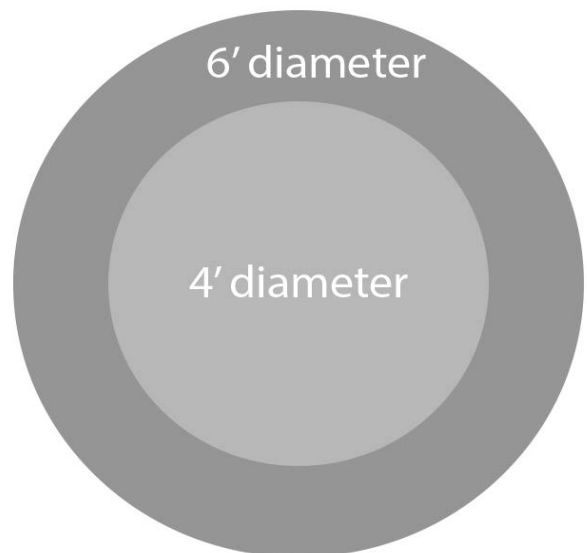
#### Rototill to a depth of 2 inches

This needs to be done with multiple passes and should not exceed the depth of the Organic-Lock blended aggregate (i.e. avoid disrupting the base material). Spray the surface with a light spray and begin to till this material to achieve a homogeneous blend of the new and existing material. Add further water as you mix to achieve the optimal snowball (as seen in the snowball test).

#### Remove and blend the material off site

Add the new Organic-Lock blended aggregate to the existing material on a clean pad. Using a front end loader (or shovels for smaller projects) mechanically turn the material over until you achieve a homogeneous blend. Add water into this mixture until you achieve an optimal snowball (as seen in the snowball test).

Spread this newly blended material back into the area where the excavation was completed.



# Snowball Test

Mix in water (get to approximately 10% total moisture content). Blend the Organic-Lock blended aggregate with water until you achieve an ideal snowball as per below. This can be done by adding 1-2% of water by weight of the aggregate, until you achieve the desired snowball.



Not Enough Water



Too Much Water



Ideal Amount of Water



Step Test Showing Side by Side



If you find yourself with a batch that is too wet, the best thing you can do is add further dry material into the mix to dilute the moisture and return to a proper snowball.



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