



Give Mud the Boot

Mud can be a big problem wherever animals congregate, especially around gates, water troughs, barn entrances, and feeding pads. If mud in these areas is making you and your horses miserable, "heavy use pads" are an easy and somewhat inexpensive fix.

The main components of a heavy use pad-stone and geotextile fabric-allow water to slowly drain away without mixing with the soil. They are simple to install if you have a front loading tractor and can do simple excavation work. If not, you might want to hire someone with the necessary equipment.

Don't skimp on the size of the pad. If you're installing one around a trough, make it at least the length of one horse on each accessible side of the trough. To give your pad the best chance of working, first divert any runoff, such as from barn, shed and house downspouts, so it moves around, not through, the area. Downspout extenders, gravel trenches and low berms are easy ways to reroute water. Contact your Soil Conservation District for advice on safely rerouting runoff.

Constructing a Heavy Use Pad

- Excavate area to a depth of 8 to 12 inches.
- Level site.
- Install class SE non-woven filter fabric. If the fabric isn't wide enough, refer to manufacturer's recommendations for overlap.
- Put down 6 inches of #2 stone, which is about 2 1/2 inches in size.
- Compact stone with a roller or by driving over the pad with a tractor.
- Install 3 inches of CR6 or CR8 stone. (CR6 ranges in size from dust to 3/4 inches wide. CR8 is smaller.)
- Top with a minimum of 4 inches of blue stone dust or wood chips.
- Compact and level stone.
- Inspect regularly and repair as needed.

Material Costs for a 10-Foot by 10-Foot Heavy Use Pad

Material requirements:

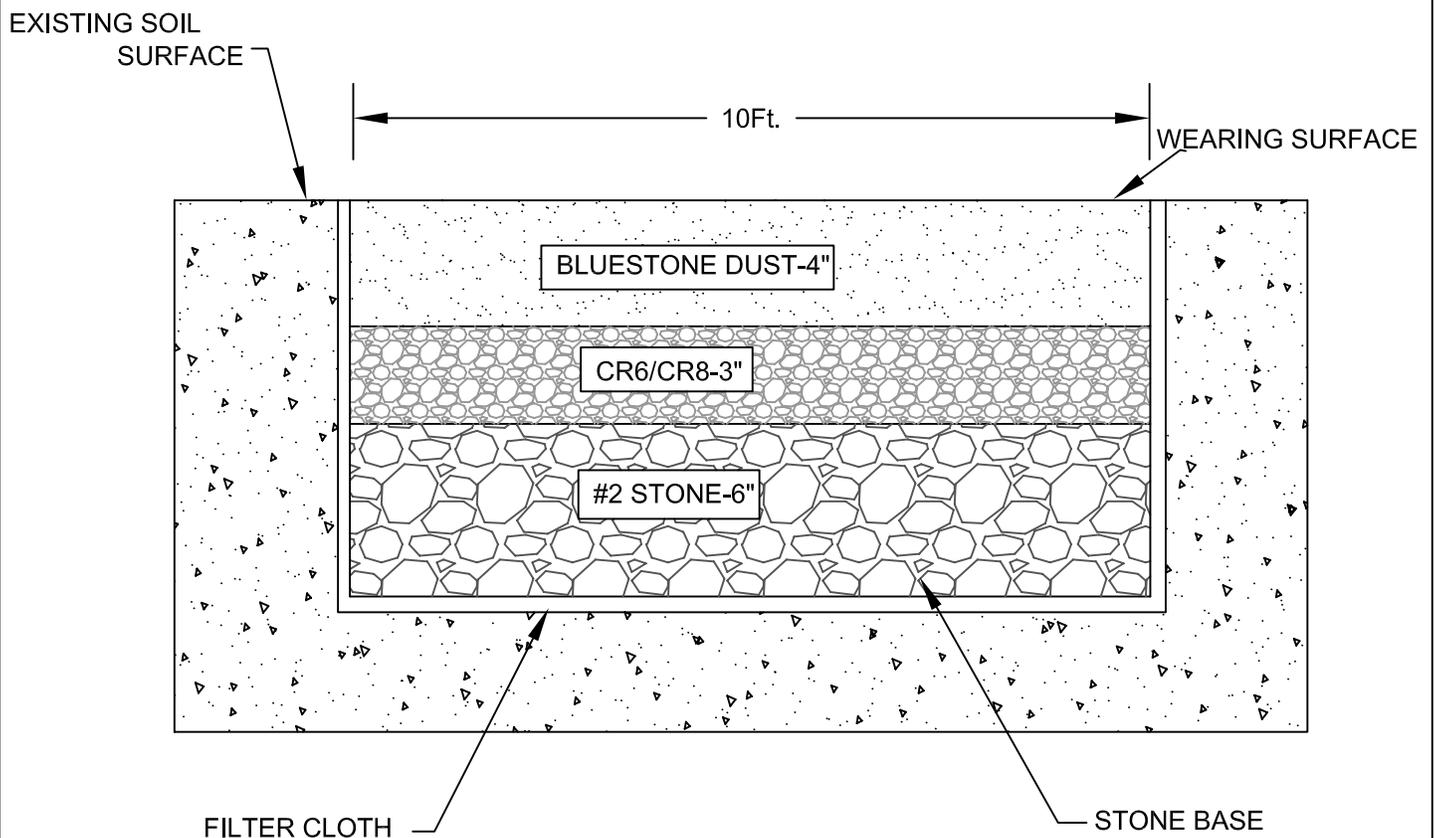
- 10 feet x 10 feet = 100 square feet
- 2 stone, 6 inches deep = 3.75 tons
- CR6 or CR8 stone, 3 inches deep = 1.875 tons
- bluestone dust, 4 inches deep = 2 tons

Cost Estimate:

- Fabric = \$140
- 2 stone = \$120
- CR6 stone = \$ 60
- bluestone dust = \$ 56
- Total = \$ 376

For more information on horse manure management and other soil conservation and water quality practices, contact you local Soil Conservation District. For more information contact your local Soil Conservation District/ Natural Resources Conservation Service/ (SCD/ NRCS) office or county Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE) office. Addresses and phone numbers can be found at http://www.mda.state.md.us/resource_conservation/technical_assistance/index.php , <http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory> or <http://extension.umd.edu> or check the listing County Government for SCD/MCE or US Government, Department of Agriculture for NRCS of the phone book blue pages. The Horse Outreach Workgroup was established to provide information to horse owners on pasture and manure management issues. Technical assistance is available from local county Soil Conservation Districts/Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Maryland Cooperative Extension office. The workgroup consists of representatives from local Soil Conservation Districts, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension, University of Maryland, the Equiery, and the Maryland Horse Council. The Maryland Department of Agriculture's Office of Resource Conservation provides coordination for the workgroup. January 2001, revised January 2007

- The Heavy Use Area should be excavated 11-13 inches below existing soil surface.
- Use Class SE Non-Woven Filter Fabric on the bottom and up the sides, for larger areas use manufacturer's recommendations for over lap.
- The 6 inch stone base should be #2 stones or millings (recycled blacktop)
- The middle zone should be 3 inches of CR6 or CR 8.
- The 4 inch wearing surfaces should be either stone dust or sand . The selection of the wearing surface material is an individual choice, but many people prefer bluestone dust with horses. This layer will need to be maintained by periodically replacing lost material.
- Contact your local Soil Conservation District for free site specific recommendations and component information.



HEAVY USE AREA DETAIL
(Typical Cross-Section)