



A Mink tracking cartridge consists of a soft plastic basket having a solid bottom, vented sides and an out-turned rim by which it can be suspended in the raft aperture. The tray should be packed to 10mm below the rim with the floral foam. Because the basket has tapered sides, the rectangular block of foam must be cut and the pieces rearranged so that the outer wedges secure a central block in place. A single block of foam cut in this way fills the basket precisely and holds four pints of water.

After the foam has been saturated with water, a 10mm-thick layer of tracking substrate should be smeared over the top surface with a broad spatula. The tracking substrate is a mixture of 1kg of tracking clay and 0.5kg of sand as supplied. The ingredients should be worked together by hand in a bucket, gradually incorporating enough water (approx. 100ml for the above quantities) to make a stiff but workable paste. By smoothing with a wetted spatula (eg. decorator's trowel), and finally with a rubber blade (grouting squeegee), the surface is left perfectly smooth and level with the rim of the tray.

The foam acts as a wick, drawing water from the river to maintain a permanently moist tracking surface.

