

# LIGHTHOOF

## Tips for a Successful and Long-Lasting Installation

### Slope, Ruts, and Drainage

When planning your Lighthoof installation, consider the slope of the area. Does it slope consistently away from your gate or shelter? Are there any dips or low spots to consider? If you have any particularly deep low spots, sinkholes, or other areas where water tends to pool, fill them with a fist sized angular drainage rock or other available fill material so that they're level, and then install your Lighthoof panels over the fill.

Be sure to correct grading and drainage problems **before** you install your mud management panels. Lighthoof changes your paddock footing from moveable and unpredictable mud into a controlled, fixed surface. You can use this to your advantage: make permanent berms and swales to steer water runoff away from buildings and areas where your horses frequently walk or stand.

**Note:** Lighthoof prevents mud but it doesn't make water magically disappear. If you have a low spot in your paddock, water will pool there on top of the gravel because it has nowhere to go. Installing Lighthoof panels in this situation does stabilize the ground and prevent horses from sinking in, but does not keep your horses from getting their feet wet. If you need any grading, swales, ditches, or drains in your area, complete that project before installing Lighthoof panels.

In many cases, you can install Lighthoof panels over existing muddy footing. You do not need to excavate the mud or precisely level your sub-base in order to use this product. However, you do want to create a surface that is suitable for working on. You can do this by adding some rock to your mud, removing some of it with a tractor, or waiting for the area to dry out a bit before installing.

### Consider the Weather

Cold Lighthoof panels are stiff and very resistant to stretching. If you install Lighthoof in near-freezing or below-freezing temperatures, be sure to warm the panels first. Bring them in a heated building for a few hours before installation. You'll be glad you did!

### Gravel Compacting Tips

Run the plate compactor slowly over your area several times. Be sure to get right up to the edges.

Start with about 2" of extra gravel on top of the Lighthoof panels. The gravel will compact down into the cells. Add gravel by the shovelfull if the cells become exposed during the compaction process.

Do not add more than 2" of overfill before compacting. It's better to compact the first layer and then add your additional footing material.

If your gravel is dry, add water liberally to the area as you are compacting. It takes a lot of water to penetrate 3" of dry gravel! Keep watering until the plate compactor starts to sink in a bit.

Allow the area to dry and set before adding the rest of your footing and putting horses back on it. An ideal situation is to keep horses off the area for a few good hard rains, or a few days of watering and drying.

