

PLATE COMPACTORS: HOW TO GET MORE FROM THEM

Plate compactors, when compared to other construction machinery, are fairly simple machines. They vibrate and strike the ground to forcefully compact the ground underneath in order to prepare the surface for the next stage in construction.

Most people know that, apart from pouring concrete and more dirt on top, plate compactors are ideal for the preparation work in laying stone and patios for example; but there are 2 extra add-ons to most compactors that can help you get even more use out of them.



EXTENSION PLATES

A lot of plate compactor manufacturers have the ability to add extension plates to certain models.

While this won't increase compaction force, it does have a few key benefits:

- Wider base plate makes for a slightly bigger compaction area
- Fewer passes required to compact ground
- Slight weight addition may increase downward force
- Get right up to the edge of compacting surface

Adding extensions to your existing plates may be an inexpensive way to boost productivity and cut down on time spent on this particular step in the process. The added benefit of being able to compact right up to an edge of a building or site can make a huge difference in getting the entire project done in time.

Inquire with your local dealer, rental house or manufacturer if you're interested in this.

URETHANE MATS

Most contractors use urethane mats to create a barrier between the compactor plate and a hard surface (like a recently laid brick patio).

There are 2 key reasons these mats are useful:

1. They save your plate from chipping and absorbing pieces of the material you're working on
2. Subsequently, they save your patio (or under surface) from being destroyed or worn by the hard steel or iron plate

These mats (depending on your manufacturer) can be inexpensive and really pay for themselves by saving both your machine and surface.

Regardless of whether you take advantage of one or both of these tips, we believe they can help you get that little bit more out of your compactor.