



# Airfield Mat Systems

[www.airfieldmats.com](http://www.airfieldmats.com)

## Custom Airfield Matting Installation Tips:

These are some general guidelines. Every location is going to have its special considerations. If you would like more installation tips or review a particular situation do not hesitate to call the manufacturer Airfield Mat Systems, Inc. at 412-401-5025.

**Preparation:** It's important to take the time and care to install the mats properly. Prepare the ground so that the mats are installed on a level and stable surface to prevent buckling and high spots. Look for trouble spots where the mat might not be laying flat or where the elevation of the apron around mat might be such where a mower deck might scalp the ground as it crosses the mat. If there is uncertainty plan to run the mower equipment over the mat after installation to confirm clearance. In the event of thick existing vegetation it is recommended that the ground be line trimmed tight to the ground to minimize settling. Even so it might be necessary to return to the mats a season later, once the vegetation has settled, to further tighten the anchors keeping them flush with the mat and the ground.



**Length:** Measure the perimeter of the obstacles you wish to frame. It is recommended that you overlap the corners. Cut the mats to the proper length with a razor knife. Lay the mats overlapping the concrete bases by 3-4 inches.



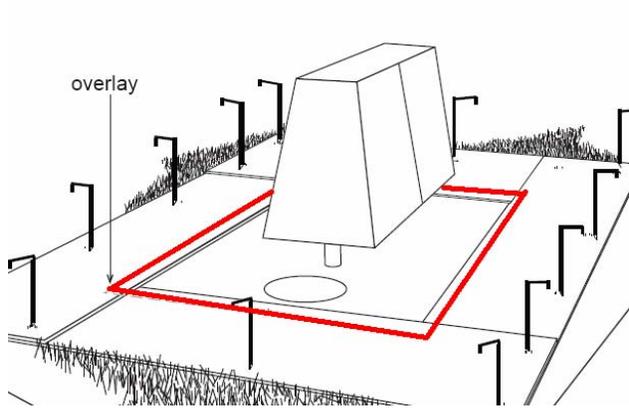


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## Overlapping a concrete base.

When overlapping a concrete base its recommended to use a caulking adhesive product such as a black top and roof sealant and lay a bead along the over lap of about ½” bead. A typical over lap is 2+ inches.



**Anchoring:** When using straight stake anchors as drawn below. Layout the anchors about 1.5 to 2 feet apart. Pierce the mat 4 inches form the outer edge. The fastest method seems to be to use a 6 inch 3/8



inch drill bit. You may use the top of an anchor to set your spacing from the edge of the mat. Drill through the mat and into the ground the full 6 inches. This makes a good pilot hole for the anchor. Typically the anchor can then be forced through the mat into the ground 6 inches and then driven the rest of the way with a 6-8 pound hammer.



Then hammer the anchor through the pilot hole with its 2 inch pin reaching over the mats edge into the ground. The anchor is generally strong enough to penetrate rocks and buried concrete splattering.



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In the event the anchor hits a rock or other impenetrable object. (such as concrete pilings under the ground. Have a Hammer drill handy. Pictured here is where an anchor bent after it hit a rock. This hammer drill makes short work of the stubborn ground. (\$45 rental from Home Depot is worth it)



**Tools:** A line trimmer and blower for prep work where needed. A tape measure, razor knife, drill for starting anchors, A hammer drill for occasional trouble spot. And a hefty hand sledge is best for the stake anchors. Caulking gun and asphalt sealant (not provided). And Bring a Camera.\*

**Quality Control:** Adjust anchors and mats if necessary to prevent buckling and to accomplish a flush installation. With cooperation from airport personnel, Contractor shall run mower equipment over the final airfield mat installations to ensure clearance. In the case of freshly graded soils or thick ground growth it is necessary to return to the mats a season later, once the soil and or the vegetation has settled, to confirm that anchors are keeping flush with the mat and the ground.

\*Email pictures and suggestions and feedback to [steve@airfieldmats.com](mailto:steve@airfieldmats.com); share your shirt size for your own airfield mat shirt.