

ROCK SPREADER

Best Practice for Binding & Blockage Prevention

1) Use material that does not exceed 3 inches (75mm) in diameter and is free from fines under 3/8 of an inch (10mm) in diameter. Two-inch (50mm) clean, screened, with all fines removed flows well in Ground Force Rock Spreader Bodies and Stemming Bodies.



Preferred Material: Two-inch (50mm) clean, screened, and washed gravel



Incorrect Material: Too small, full of fines, and not screened.

2) When temperatures drop down to 42 degrees Fahrenheit (6 degrees Celsius) it is:

- Ideal to keep the gravel dry. If the gravel cannot be kept dry it is important to remove the snow and gravel that is wet from precipitation from the surface of the pile in order to gather the drier gravel below.
- Important to ensure that no clumps of gravel larger than 3 inches (75mm) in diameter are put into the bin. Material from under the frozen crust should be worked and broken up by scooping and dumping in place before loading. Rescreening material before it is loaded into the bin may be required.
- Important to not store material in the Rock Spreader after loading. Practice “load and go” operation for optimal performance.
- Important to not allow unused material to remain in the Rock Spreader when not in use. This includes during breaks, meal periods, and shift changes.

3) Temperature fluctuations:

- When temperatures drop down below freezing and the gravel is wet and frozen it can be used effectively as long as the gravel is broken up to 3 inches or less and not allowed to thaw and refreeze.
- Gravel thaw and refreezing in the bin or the chutes

can result in binding or blockage. If the entire load is not able to be used, the remaining gravel must be dumped and the chutes emptied.

- Never store unused gravel in the Rock Spreader when it is parked even for a short amount of time.

4) Snow must not be allowed to accumulate in the bin as it will act as a binder between the pieces of gravel and between the gravel and the bin and chutes.

5) During Rock Spreader operation vibrators should:

- Be used to keep material from sticking to the walls of the bin and chutes and to break up minor bridging. Attempting to break up frozen or compacted material using vibrators will usually result in the material further binding.
- Only be run when the chute doors are open and gravel is being spread. Running the vibrators with the chute doors closed may cause the gravel to pack and bind in the chutes.
- Be run once the bin is emptied to break build-up loose from the walls of the bin and chute.

6) A non-corrosive ice melt can be mixed with the material to help prevent the material from freezing during operation. Even when using an ice melt mixture, do not leave the material in the truck when the truck is not in use.

7) If a chute becomes plugged, empty the bin either by continuing to operate the Rock Spreader with the opposite chute and/or by dumping the load. Once the bins are empty lower the body back down, turn the spinner percentage to zero (to keep the spinner from spinning), open the chute door, and then turn the truck off with the chute door open. Once the chute door is open, dig the material out taking care to remove all material that has frozen to the walls of the bin and chute.



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