WINTER PROTOCOL

WINTER STORAGE & OPERATION CHECKLIST

Cold doesn't damage rubber tracks. **What cold damages is everything around them** — hubs, seals, bearings, and the hydraulic tensioning that lets a track move. This is the 15-minute protocol that catches it before it becomes a $20,000 call in April.

RUBBER TRACKS DON'T FAIL FROM COLD. HUBS, SEALS, AND BEARINGS DO.

A BEFORE STORAGE — THE FIVE-STEP SHOP VISIT

15 MIN · EACH MACHINE

- [ ] 01 **Clean the undercarriage.** Pressure-wash mud, crop residue, and roller-path packed material before parking.
  Dried-in material = concrete. Frozen = main-cable overload at startup.
- [ ] 02 **Top off every hub oil.** Verify levels now — this is the baseline reading.
  Any oil missing in spring = a seal that failed in storage.
- [ ] 03 **Mark each hub with a white paint marker + today's date.**
  Spring verification = one glance per hub.
- [ ] 04 **Lay a white paper towel under each hub.** Weight it with a small rock if there's any wind.
  The $0.50 trick that catches a $20,000 problem. Oil = failed seal. Clean = healthy hub.
- [ ] 05 **Store under cover.** Inside > lean-to > tarp > open sky.
  UV and ozone keep degrading rubber all winter, even in cold storage.

B STILL RUNNING? END-OF-DAY

EVERY WORK DAY · WINTER

- [ ] **Rinse the undercarriage.** Clean out mud and debris before it freezes solid overnight.
- [ ] **Drive 50 feet to shed water.** Breaks loose anything clinging to the roller path.
- [ ] **Park on dry ground.** Gravel or concrete — never in standing water or mud.
- [ ] **Walk the undercarriage before morning startup.**
  "Driving it loose" is how tracks get snapped.
- [ ] **Let hydraulic fluid warm** before gearing up in deep cold.

C BEFORE FIRST SPRING START

BEFORE FIRST USE · SPRING

- [ ] **Inspect each paper towel.** Collect them before the machine moves. Oil residue = failed seal at that hub.
- [ ] **Verify each hub oil level.** Compare to your October date on the hub.
- [ ] **ANY oil loss = seal service before use.** Do not run the machine.
  A locked bearing in the field destroys the whole track.
- [ ] **When uncertain, call your dealer.** $200 preventive beats $20,000 field failure.

A $0.50 PAPER TOWEL CATCHES A $20,000 PROBLEM.

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