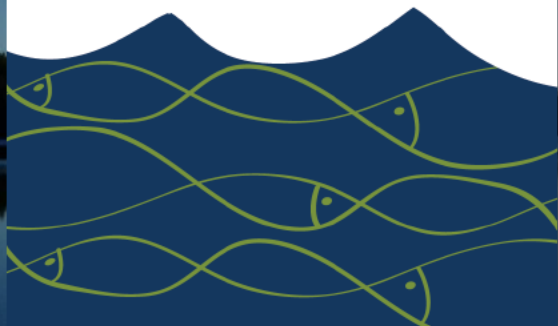


Clean Water Works



RUBBER RAZOR BARS

Prevent erosion by diverting water off gravel roads and driveways

Where to use rubber razor bars?

A rubber razor bar, also called a rubber razor blade or rubber waterbar, is primarily used on seasonal roads or driveways. Although not always recommended, rubber razors can be used on roads that are plowed, provided that (1) its location is clearly marked; and (2) the plow driver is instructed to lift the plow before passing over it. The rubber bar protrudes above the road surface high enough to intercept and collect water, while allowing traffic to pass over it.

Why use rubber razor bars?

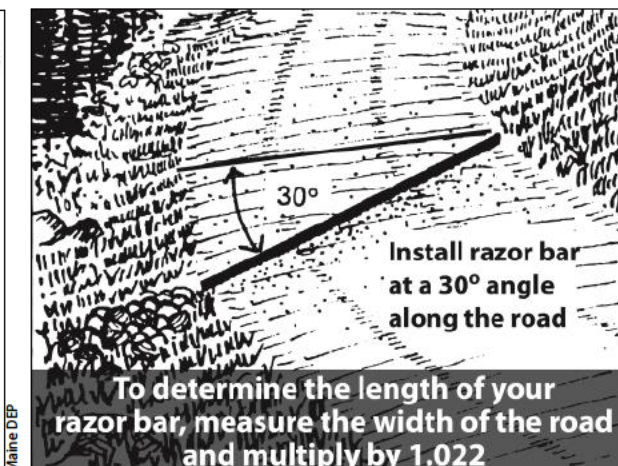
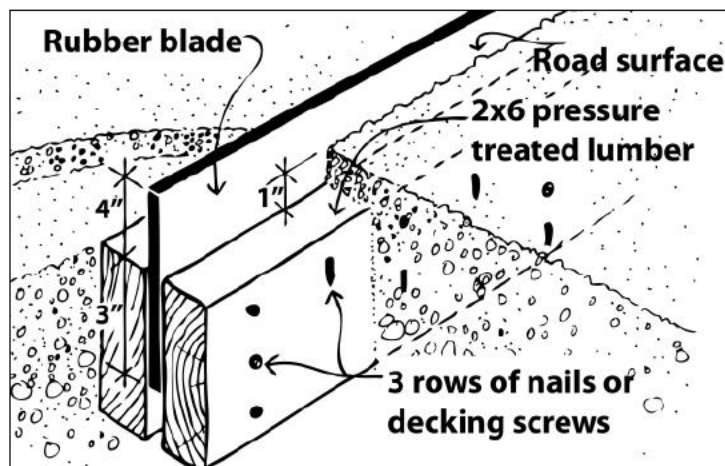
Rubber razor are used to divert water off sloping sections of a gravel road or driveway, and direct water to a stable vegetated area. The rubber ridge is relatively inexpensive since it is constructed from used conveyors belts that can be obtained at low or no cost from various local manufacturers.

Installing rubber razor bars

Rubber razor bars span across the entire width of your road or driveway. They are installed at a 30° angle to the road edge and protrude above the road surface to direct water toward a stable vegetated area. Diverted water should flow into a stable area with riprap or stones to slow down the water before it enters the vegetated area. The razor bar should be securely installed by packing gravel tightly it.

Materials List

- Pressure treated lumber to span beyond the length of the road
 - Two lengths of 2" x 6"
 - Determine the length of the razor bar by measuring the road width and multiplying by 1.022
- Galvanized (16 penny) nails or decking screws should be:
 - At least 3" long
 - Installed in 3 rows across lumber span:
 - Top row: 3" on center
 - Middle row: 6" on center
 - Bottom row: 12" on center
- Recycled rubber blade should be:
 - 3/8" thick
 - 7" high
 - Same length as lumber



RUBBER RAZOR BARS

Maintaining rubber razor bars

Maintenance of these structures should include:

1. Regularly removing accumulated debris from behind the razor to ensure that the water will be diverted successfully to the stable outlet.
2. Semiannually removing debris from the stable outlet area, such as cleaning out accumulated winter sand in the spring and leaf drop in the fall.
3. Periodically replacing the rubber bar when it is worn down and no longer diverts water across the road or driveway.

If the road is used year round, winter maintenance should include:

1. Notifying the plow driver or contractor to lift the plow blade across the rubber razor to prevent damaging the bar.
2. Flagging or marking each side of the road or driveway where the rubber razor bar crosses before snow falls to ensure that the location of the bar is visible to the plow driver or contractor.

