

Turf Tip on Backlapping

COURTESY OF JOHN DEERE TURF (WWW.DEERE.COM)

Backlapping is an often repeated maintenance procedure for service technicians. After experimenting with different ways to make the procedure as fast, easy, and efficient as possible, we've developed a simple technique that makes cleanup after backlapping much easier. We use water to wet down the reels and bedknife before applying the backlapping compound.

Despite today's water-based gel-type compounds, cleanup often is difficult. Even the slightest amount of compound that is left on the reels or bedknife can dull the blades that you've just spent time sharpening.

The machines can be washed down prior to backlapping and allowed to dry until just enough moisture remains or, better yet, use a hand sprayer to apply a 50-50 solution of water and ordinary dish soap directly to the reels and bedknife just prior to beginning the backlapping procedure. The water has no effect on the backlapping process itself, either positive or negative. But, once the procedure is completed, the backlapping compound is much easier to remove from the pre-dampened reels and bedknife during cleanup than it is from those that have not been wet down. This simple procedure will help increase reel sharpness and reel seal and bearing life. ♦

— Warren Savini, reprinted from the GTI Advisor,
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