



Instructions videos are also available on our Youtube channel. They all have been regrouped under 1 playlist named: Lake Bottom Blanket Instruction Video.

What is the Lake Bottom Blanket (LBB)? :

The LBB is a device that will kill submerged aquatic weeds in about a month by blocking sunlight. The LBB consists of a sheet of multilayered plastic with a specific gravity less than water. The LBB is held to the Lake Bottom by 10-foot-long, 3/8-inch diameter rebar (not included) enclosed in tubes sewn into the material at five-foot intervals. In the water, the plastic material raises and forms arches between the rebar ribs, this concentrates the decomposition gases and directs them to gas release ports in the material.

The LBB is **not** intended to be permanently installed. Within a month's time, the weeds are dead and the LBB should be moved to a new location or removed for cleaning and storage. Rope handles are attached to the end ribs to facilitate installation and removal. A caution buoy is supplied to warn away speed boats and to identify the LBB's location. In shallow water (less than 2 feet) the blanket should not be walked on or subjected to out-board motors.

Important Tips

- MAKE SURE YOU HAVE HELPERS AVAILABLE
- DON'T TRY TO INSTALL ON A WINDY DAY
- CHOOSE A SHADY AREA TO ASSEMBLE
- USE 1/2-INCH REBAR IN THE END RIBS IN AREAS THAT HAVE HEAVY WAVE ACTION
- BE AWARE THAT PLASTIC SOFTENS IN THE SUN (LIMIT TIME IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT)

Amount of 3/8-inch x 10-foot rebar needed:

LBB20 – 5 PCS. LBB25 – 6 PCS. LBB30 – 7 PCS.
 LBB35 – 8 PCS. LBB40 – 9 PCS. LBB45 – 10 PCS.
 LBB50 – 11 PCS. LBB80 – 17 PCS.

(2) SETS OF 1/2-INCH REBAR ENDCAPS ARE PROVIDED IF NEEDED.

REBAR IS AVAILABLE AT MOST BUILDING AND MASONRY SUPPLY STORES, AND AT LOWE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

Assembly

1. The first order of business is to acquire the 10-foot-lengths of 3/8-inch rebar. (While 1/2-inch rebar may be more easily obtained, it doubles the cost and the weight, and is not necessary under normal conditions.)
2. Find a shady spot to assemble the Blanket. Remove the contents of the packaging and locate the vinyl end caps. Put them on the rebar ends. (2) Sets of 1/2-inch rebar are provided for the end weight tubes if needed.
3. Unfold the Blanket to its full width; you will see clips holding the plastic layers together. You will also see the ends of the tubes aligned side by side. One end of the tubes is sewn closed; find the open ends of the tubes that have the cable ties and slowly insert the rebar into the tubes. If it is a hot day, you may need to wet the rebar end caps to help them through the weight tubes. After the rebar is fully inserted, lock it in by tightening the cable tie over the material, and then cut off the free end of the cable tie. Now you're ready to install.

Installation

Now that you have the LBB assembled, installation must be done on a **calm day**. Make sure you have a helper. You will need the use of a boat: a rowboat or a pontoon is the easiest for this installation. You must also decide if you want the Blanket white side up (easy to see in the water) or black side up.

1. Installing the LBB with the white side up is accomplished by taking the Blanket as it sits with the ribs close to the water and pulling the top rib into the water. If you desire the black side up, you can rotate the material 180 degrees, having the loose material closest to the water and then pull the top rib over the material into the water--
2. Once you have determined the side you want up in the water, we can begin by placing the Blanket on the stern of the boat, with either the loose material over the boat (black side up) or on the boat (white side up). - **Continue on Back**

Installation instructions Continued:

2(continued). Attach the two handling lines to the Blanket's handles. The line for the shore end (indicated by the red twist-tie) can be attached as a loop so that it can be easily detached after the Blanket is deployed, if you desire. Remove the clips.

3. The shoreline, attached to the outboard rib, is either attached to the shore or held by a person on shore.

4. The offshore line can be attached to the boat or held by the oarsman.

5. Release the outermost rib into the water on the shore end of the planned installation. (The water depth should be at least 3 feet - the depth can be less if there is assurance of no activity in the area of the Blanket.) Move the boat away from the shore. The Blanket will play out. It will likely take a few minutes for the entire Blanket to settle below the water's surface.

6. When the last rib is overboard, using the line (with the white twist tie) attached to the rope handle pull the Blanket reasonably tight before releasing the last rib to the substrate. Let the Blanket fall to the bottom.

7. Attach the caution float to the line (with the white twist tie), positioning it so that it stays in close proximity to the Blanket.

8. When the Blanket has settled, pull in on the shoreline again, stretching the Blanket reasonably tight.

9. The shoreline may be disconnected or tied to a support on shore. Tying the rope to the shore is recommended.

Note: River Installations - May need all 1/2" rebar and/or more weighting, and LBB must be positioned parallel to shore, and tied off to shore.

Multiple Blanket Deployment

For multiple in-line installations: Position the Blankets, one ahead of the other, on the stern of the boat; after the first one is mostly played out, the next one can be attached to the first one using the grommets and the rope handles supplied. The black surfaces will be up.

For side-by-side installations: Having the white surfaces up aids in attaining proper overlapping. Lay the first blanket as described. Once the first LBB is in the water the second can be deployed. Try to have the ribs match up and overlap by about 1 foot. Having the ribs match up helps in overall alignment.

Removal / Care

- Most submerged weeds will die within 4 weeks – there are exceptions (i.e. Hydrilla)
- Once the weeds are dead, the LBB should be repositioned to kill more weeds or removed for storage.
- Removal is best accomplished by reversing the installation, by using the buoy rope and bringing the material over itself (any sediment will roll off in the process.)
- There are a variety of ways in which the Blanket can be removed with little risk of damage, but there is one way that is asking for trouble, and that is pulling the Blanket up on the shore by hauling it in with the shoreline. If there are any rocks or other abnormalities on the substrate, they can catch and will cause the Blanket to tear.
- Bring the LBB to an area out of the sunlight and clean it with a water hose and soft brush, let dry and re-pleat it for the next season installation. You may find inconsequential discoloration of the plastic and small insects and such on the material during the cleaning process, this is normal. Be careful that the Blanket is not laid on a rough surface or walked on during clean up.
- After pleating the LBB, roll it up and store it off the ground in a dry area out of the sun (like a garage).

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