Rascal and LGR Driveway Grooming Guide

Guide for Grooming Driveways

One of the many uses for a Rascal is for driveway repair, or maintenance. The setup and maintenance is covered in the setup guide, so here we will cover how to manage problems that may come up in your driveway. One of the most frequent issues with the Gravel Rascal happens when the operator uses an inconsistent speed, i.e. stopping and starting, speeding up and slowing down.

Removing Pot holes and Washouts – These are the easiest to handle. With the Gravel Rascal series lower the scarifiers down to the depth they want to rip to. Start your first pass with the wheels down, to help stabilize for the initial loosening. Travel at a slow consistent speed, allowing the Rascal to dig in as you travel. With each pass raise the wheels more; and drag the driveway till the washouts or potholes are gone. To finish the driveway you may want to come back over for a last pass in the basic setup, or with just the finish rake to lightly pack the driveway; and give it a clean finish. If you feel you need more weight, we offer a weight rack for the Rascals. This weight rack holds suitcase weights, giving you more weight for deeper dragging.

Dragging with a Crown – If you want to keep the crown drag only the outside of the crown at a slow steady pace. Avoid the crown, and allow the Rascal to rip the soil on the sides only.

Putting in a Crown – You may want to use the Gravel Rascal to put a crown into your driveway. You will need to drag the driveway as normal. Then put the Rascal into a grading position. To setup the Rascal in grading position you will flip the scarifiers out of play. Lower the wheels, and flip each scarifier up so the tips are on top. Then adjust the finish rake down to a 90 degree angle. Now you will pull material to the center of the drive, raise the Rascal, and leave the material behind. This will need to be repeated down both sides. This is much easier with the Electric Actuator attached, but may result in battery drainage.

Common things that cause Wash boarding - One of the most common causes of wash boarding is inconsistent speed. Using an inconsistent speed can cause a “bump” in the gravel. When you get multiple bumps it becomes what we classify as a washboard effect. This can be cause by using inconsistent speed. When dragging at a higher speed, it may cause the Rascal to bounce, or give it a hopping motion, leaving behind bumps as it goes. This can also be cause by sudden acceleration, or by starting and stopping. Once there is a bump that is not immediately cared for, it will continue to cause more bumps as the Rascal travels over it. Eventually this will give the driveway a washboard effect.

Removing Washboard effect from a driveway – Once you have finished dragging your Driveway you may notice a washboard effect. If you notice this in their driveway, fixing it is time consuming but easy to do. Note: If it has been driven on, or repacked; you may need to rip the driveway again. Once you know the material is loose, you will setup the Rascal in a grading position with the wheels down, and the scarifiers out of play. This is done by moving the finish rake down more at a 90 degree angle. Then going at a very slow speed, you will need to perform a serpentine pattern to remove the waves. The illustrations below show one of our serpentine patterns that you can follow to remove the washboard effect:

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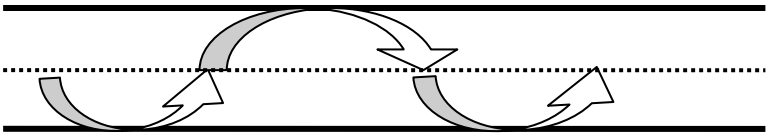
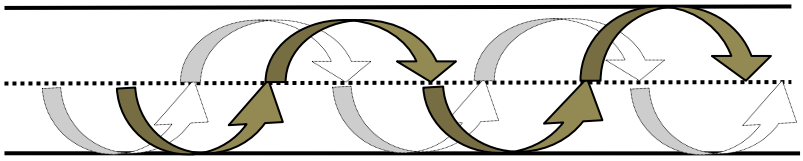
Pass 1

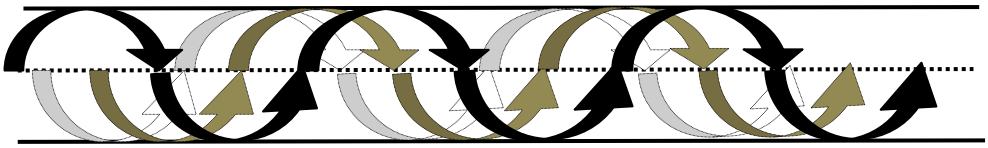


The dotted line indicates the center or “crown” of the driveway

Pass 2



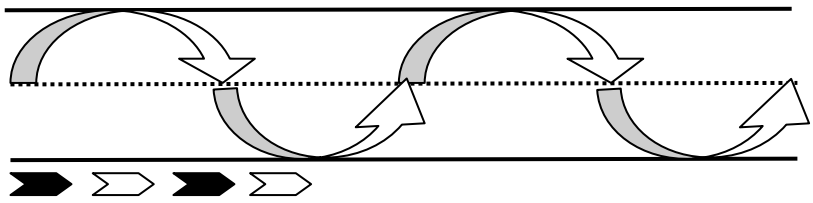
Pass 3



This pattern will need to be run a few times at a very slow steady speed. When you go down your driveway you want to make sure to overlap the pattern. Your overlap should be about 6”, or enough to remove the ribbon from the previous pass. Once you have finished running the pattern you may wish to go back over it again for a finished look. If you decide to finish the drive, once back in the basic setup; use the finish rake at a slow and steady speed to finish.

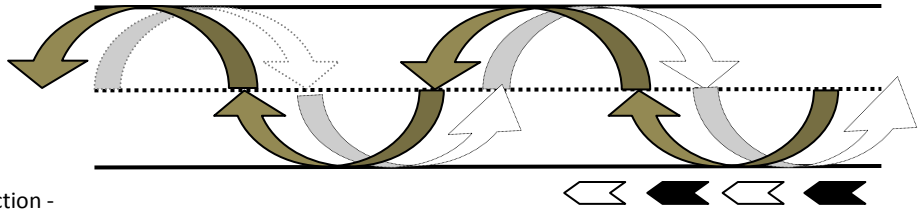
Another pattern you can use is the Crossover Serpentine Pattern. This is the same as the pattern above, but now you will be hitting the drive from each side. This is a down and back pattern. The pattern is illustrated below:

Pass 1



Drag Direction –

Pass 2



Drag Direction -

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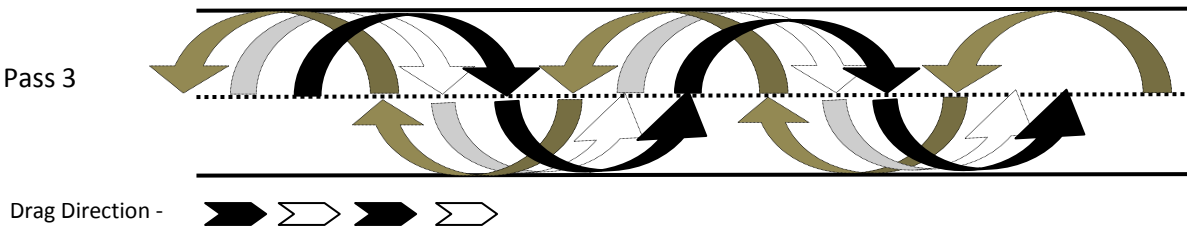

The white arrows indicate the first pass. The gold arrows are the second, and the black arrows the third. You will come down the drive in the same slow serpentine pattern, then starting at the bottom repeat the pattern, continuing up and down; till the waves are fully removed.

Using the LGR

Using the LGR on Driveways – You will need to set the depth of the scarifiers to the depth you wish to rip. Next, you will set the angle of the finish rake using the top link. Remember that the more aggressive the rake is set, the less depth you have to rip with the scarifiers. So you may wish to set the scarifiers deeper if you use an aggressive angle on the finish blade. Again, the wheels are mainly designed for transport, but if you do not have a lot of turns to make, you can use the wheels with caution. It may take multiple passes for you to reach the desired depth of ripping. This will be determined by the material you are ripping, as well as how tightly packed it is. Materials such as clay or heavy stone driveways may take more passes.

Using the LGR on Waves – Using the LGR for driveway maintenance is more difficult to set up for. For wave removal you will need to remove the scarifiers completely. Then extend the top link out as far as you can. Remember to stop short so that the top link ends do not fall out. You also should not use the wheels for this. The shallow turn pattern could damage the bearings, as the wheels are mainly designed for transport. Now you will run the serpentine pattern as instructed above, choosing either the first or second pattern. If using the LGR in a grading position is not working, then you will need to run it in a full contact position. For this you will leave out the scarifiers still, but will close the top link in fully. This will allow for more contact with the finish rake. The wheels again will be removed from play and you will use the chosen pattern again. You will need to run slow and steady, trying to avoid sudden stops or sudden acceleration.