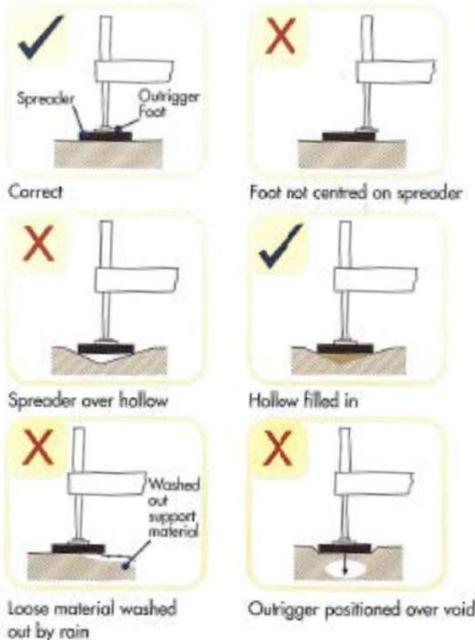
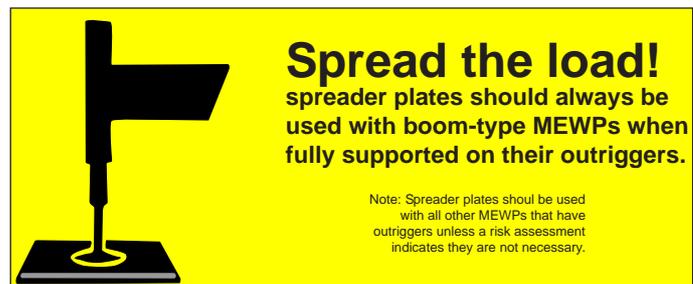


## MEWP- Stability

Examples of Good and Bad Practice



During use it is important that operators use level indicators on platforms and take notice of any warnings provided. If the level indicator shows that operating limits are being exceeded, the operator should lower the platform or machine and reset in a level position. If it is suspected that the outriggers could sink for any reason, regular checks should be made of machine level and adjustments made to outriggers, spreaders, mats etc.



The assessment of ground can vary from a visual inspection of the surface to a full geotechnical survey. In the case of MEWPs, a visual inspection is often adequate as outrigger loads are relatively low compared to machines such as mobile cranes.

However, it is essential that the assessment is made by someone with adequate knowledge and the experience to know when further expert advice and assessment is required.

Typical ground conditions hazards:

**Uncompacted fill** - soil or other material may be piled along the line of backfilled trench without being compacted (stable). Cracking of the ground along the line of the trench is a sign of uncompacted fill.

**Proximity to excavations** - MEWPs should never be placed near to the edge of a trench or excavation as these are likely to collapse without warning. If it is unavoidable an engineering assessment must take place.

**Floors, cellars and basements** - Many are incapable of taking the weight of the MEWP and could collapse without warning this must be taken into account when setting up a MEWP.

**Paved areas** - They can look deceptively strong but may be laid on weak ground.

**Roads** - If a road is used regularly by heavy commercial vehicles it is of less concern than a lightly trafficked car park or estate.

**Underground services** - May be damaged by the weight of a MEWP or could even collapse.

**Weather conditions** - Heavy or prolonged rain can alter ground conditions and cause sinking. If this is suspected, regular checks of the machine level should be made and the appropriate adjustments made. Regular check should be made of frozen ground as it can appear firm but as it thaws may become unstable.

See back copies and more online at:  
[www.buildsafe.co.za](http://www.buildsafe.co.za)  
Submit and share:  
[info@buildsafe.co.za](mailto:info@buildsafe.co.za)

Bulletin courtesy of:

