

# HOW TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF AN UNDERCARRIAGE

The most expensive part on a tracked dozer or excavator is the undercarriage, representing 50% of the machine's owning and operating costs. Proper use of the machine can extend the life of the undercarriage.

**Limit side hill operation.** It can accelerate wear on links on one side.

**Avoid unnecessary reverse operation.** It wears bushings and sprockets.

**Check track alignment.** When tracks are not properly aligned it can cause component wear.

**Minimize sharp turns and counter-rotations.** These maneuvers stress tracks from brake use on one or other side.

**Slipping track can cause premature wear on components and track itself.** It also reduces production and increases fuel consumption.

**Keep correct track tension.** Adjust and test track tension as needed. Tight tracks can increase wear on bushings, sprockets, links, and idlers. Too tight of tracks can increase wear and strain.

**Choose correct shoes to fit job.** Using wrong shoe width can increase wear and strain on links, pins and bushings.

**Keep undercarriage clean.** Materials and debris can build up, especially in certain climates and types of material machine is working in.

**Avoid high-speed tracking.** It elevates track temperatures too high and causes premature wear.

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learn@catsimulators.com  
1.309.266.2640  
www.catsimulators.com



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