



A BETTER TIMBER MAT

Need an alternative to a mixed hardwood mat that is more affordable and just as strong?

Summary: Using a strength-adjusted mat you can increase quality and decrease cost. Save between \$35-\$80 per mat. For some 12" applications you may save 50%, substituting one 12" Eucalyptus for two mixed hardwood mats.

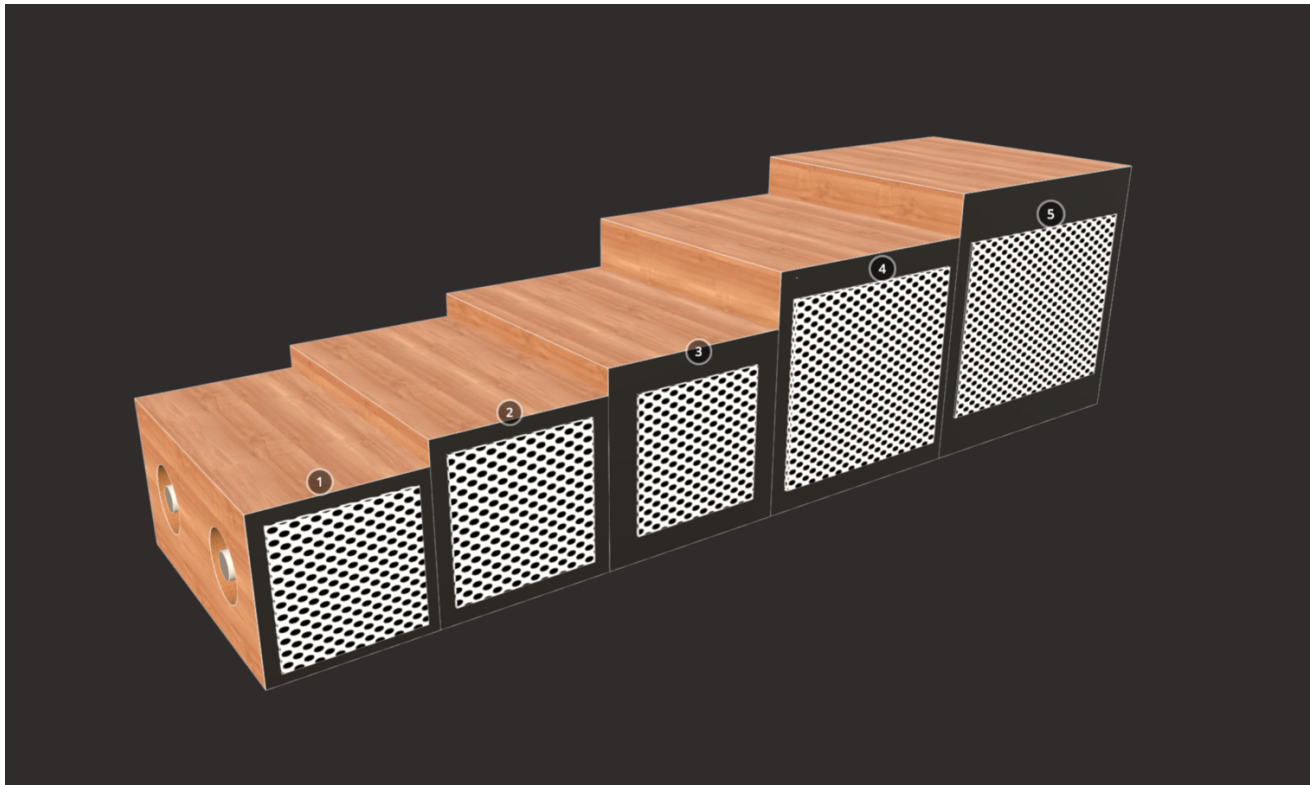


Figure 1 - Eucalyptus mat sizes. 6", 6.75", 8", 10" and 12" square blocks

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Specific solution:

1. Estimate the strength of mat you really need. Often, bending strength (F_b) will be most important factor, followed by shear (F_v). Eucalyptus is 43% stronger in bending strength and 32% stronger in shear than mixed hardwoods.
2. Consider the following table to compare your options:

Mat thickness	Comment	Estimated Eucalyptus Savings
6" mats	Perfect for solar and light transmission line work. Equivalent to a 7.2" mixed hardwood mat.	\$70/mat vs. 8" mixed hardwood mats on 18' mats
6.75" mats	Bending strength equivalent to 8" mixed hardwood mats.	\$35/mat vs. 8" mixed hardwood mats on 18' mats
8" mats	42% stronger than equivalent 8" mixed hardwood mats; equivalent to bending strength of a 9.6" mixed hardwood mat	No purchase savings. Freight savings and longer life = lower total cost of ownership.
10" mats	Equivalent to 12" mixed hardwood mats	\$80/mat vs. 12" mixed hardwood mats.
12" mats	42% stronger than 12" mixed hardwood mats; equivalent to bending strength of a 14.25" mixed hardwood mat	Stronger and lighter. For some cranes one 12" Eucalyptus mat may substitute for two mixed hardwood mats. Estimated advantage of \$30-\$650/mat depending on destination and use.
All mats in respect to shear	265 psi shear Eucalyptus vs. 200 mixed hardwoods - 32% greater shear strength	Hard to quantify but stronger shear means less gouging, less damage from mud and water, and longer overall life.