

Fodbuster® / FODMaster® FOD Sweeper vs Friction Mats

Both sweepers sweep very well but both have distinct advantages and disadvantages...

Fodbuster® Rock Sweeper or FODMaster® F.O.D. Sweeper manufactured by A Z Industries, Inc.

- Can be used as primary sweeping equipment on airfields, replacing vacuum equipment.
- Steel buckets (hoppers) that collect the debris are easy to remove and dump in the trash.
- Replacement brushes are available which keeps these units running for decades.
- Optional magnetic sweeper bar is available to hang from the rear of the Fodbuster® / FODMaster® that can help pick up ferrous objects in flightline cracks, expansion joints and aircraft tiedowns.
- Optional clutches or lock-out hubs are available which allows the operator to travel at highway speeds to the location that needs sweeping without excess wear and tear to the drive system of the sweepers.
- Easy to use and operate. Just hook up to the vehicle using the included tow ring or 2" ball coupler (your choice at time of ordering), lower the brush until it touches the pavement, adjust rubber debris ramp until it touches the ground, and you are ready to start sweeping.

Friction Mats made by various companies

- Can be used as primary sweeping equipment on airfields, replacing vacuum equipment.
- Not so easy to remove debris. Debris is captured in a large mesh capture-zone which then has to be picked up and shaken on to the asphalt. It will then need to be swept up with a broom and dust pan and emptied into the trash.
- Nothing replaceable. This is a friction mat that wears out as it is being used. The whole unit has to be thrown away and replaced after 1500 and possibly up to 4500 miles of operation depending on asphalt surface condition. In other words, if you sweep at a speed of 25 MPH, you would have to throw this unit away after 60 to 180 hours of operation. Or, using this unit every day for a typical 40-hour work week, this unit would have to be thrown away after one and one-half weeks to a little more than four weeks of use. The rougher the surface, the shorter the life. The more the mat collects, the heavier it gets and the faster it wears.
- Will not pick up any debris in flightline cracks and expansion joints. Very poor sweeping capability on grooved and rough flightlines.
- These cannot be pulled on the highway. It must be packed up and transported.
- Easy to use and operate. Connect special tow hitch to vehicle, unpack and unfold mat and hook the mat up to the special tow hitch. (Special tow hitch is proprietary equipment only available from the manufacturer.) You are ready to start sweeping.

The logo for AZ Industries Inc. features the letters 'AZ' in a large, bold, yellow, stylized font. To the right of 'AZ', the word 'Industries' is written in a yellow, italicized serif font, and 'Inc.' is written in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font.