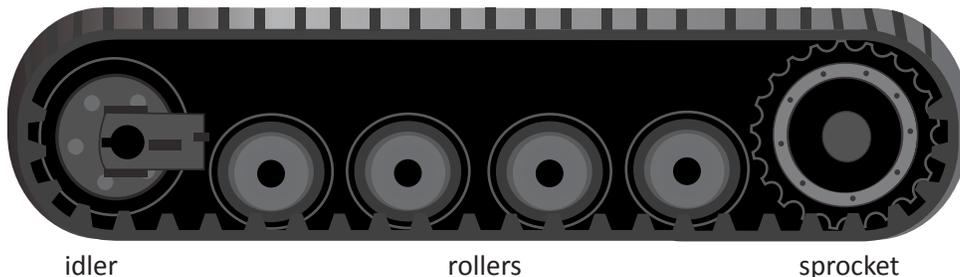


## The Importance of Changing Out Your Undercarriage Parts

It's steel, right? How can it wear? The answer is, "very easily!" Most sprockets, rollers, and idlers are given a hardness treatment before assembly that protects it from a few millimeters of wear. Once you wear past the hardness coating, your rollers and sprockets begin to wear more rapidly. For example, if you were to lay a new part beside your worn part, you would be able to see the difference between the two very easily. If you replace your old rubber track with a new one without updating the wearable components such as a sprocket and rollers, you run the risk of putting premature wear on the track. Why? Because the parts that wear more quickly will affect the productivity and wear of the other components, thereby putting undue stress on your new track.

Taking the time to do proper maintenance will go a long way in reducing operating costs. Always remember to routinely check machine oil levels, grease your undercarriage components and clear the undercarriage free of rocks and debris. All undercarriage parts should be installed based on OEM Service Manual Specifications.



### Idler

An idler is a fundamental component of the undercarriage. The front idler holds the track in proper alignment when the machine is traveling and acts as a shock absorber and track "tensioner." Worn or seized idlers will create drag and can result in severe damage to tracks or undercarriages due to frequent de-tracking.

Sign of worn idlers: wheel loosens between mounting arms (bad bearings), reduced stability, loss of track tension, accelerated track wear, and de-tracking.



## Roller

Bottom rollers are designed to take the majority of the machine's weight through the tracks and onto the ground. The upper rollers carry the chain in alignment. We recommend replacing all of your rollers (on the same side of the machine) at the same time. If only one roller is changed, then the new roller may be slightly larger in diameter and will carry a higher weight load. There is no warranty on rollers when replaced individually.

Signs of worn rollers: rollers leaking oil (seal going bad), a noticeable 'sideways' movement when a roller is spun, grinding noises, increased drag, reduced stability, accelerated track wear, and de-tracking.



new Bobcat T-180  
bottom roller



worn Bobcat T-180  
bottom roller



new Bobcat T-190  
deep dish sprocket



worn Bobcat T-190  
deep dish sprocket

## Sprocket

A sprocket is a profiled wheel that meshes with a rubber track to transmit motion. Vital for excellent track life, sprockets should be replaced whenever new tracks are installed. When you run on a worn sprocket, it puts more wear on the rubber track links because the metal links in the rubber tracks will slide up and down on the worn teeth of the sprocket, creating unnecessary friction and wear. The teeth will not align with the corresponding striking point of the embedded metal links and will cause a reduction in the sprocket pitch, an increase in tooth height, improper alignment, and track looseness.

Signs of a worn sprocket: sprocket tips look like wave caps (worn and swept back in one direction), the dwell between the teeth towards the sprocket center is worn down, grinding noises, accelerated track wear, track slippage, de-tracking, and complete tearouts of the metal inserts.

Reference: Compact Equipment & Equipment Today