

TAILGATE SAFETY

The FGI believes it is important to always put safety first.
Our **Tailgate Safety Program** is a safety training resource for construction and other high hazard industries.

**SAFETY
FIRST**

Safety training for the job site & the office!

Deployment Tools Safety Tips - 4/8/2026 - Harman

When deploying geomembrane panels on the job site, using the right tools and techniques keeps your crew safe, protects the material, and gets the job done efficiently. Always plan your deployment approach before you begin.

Manual Deployment Techniques

Hand-Pulling Panels Safely

- Utilize vise grips with a strap to pull panels — this provides mechanical grip strength and reduces hand fatigue during large panel deployments.
- Wear gloves at all times when handling geomembrane material to protect your hands and avoid blisters during extended pulling operations.
- Fold the material edge over itself to create a substantial grip that will not slip — this technique also helps prevent falls caused by sudden material release.
- Have multiple crew members pull at once to distribute load — this reduces material stress on any single area and prevents tears.
- Use wind to your advantage — allow it to create lift under the material and 'float' the panel into position, reducing manual effort significantly.

Equipment-Assisted Deployment

Using Machinery to Deploy Large Panels

- Use equipment with a tow point or winch to pull material across large areas — RTVs, Gators, and similar utility vehicles are well suited for this task.
- Spreader bars attached to larger equipment can significantly expedite deployment of wide panels while reducing physical strain on the crew.
- Always confirm the equipment path is clear before beginning a tow pull — ensure no crew members are in the line of movement.
- Inspect attachment points and straps before every pull — worn or damaged rigging equipment must be replaced immediately.

General Safety Reminders

- Communicate clearly with the entire crew before and during deployment — everyone needs to know the plan and their role.
- Keep the deployment zone clear of unnecessary personnel.
- Stop and reassess if conditions change — wind, slope, or wet surfaces can significantly alter deployment risk.

Bottom Line — Plan your deployment, use the right tools, protect your crew.