

FREE TOOLKIT

CONSTRUCTION & CONTRACTOR GUIDE

The machine that wins you the most jobs isn't the biggest one on the lot. It's the one that matches your ground, your jobs, and how often it has to move, so you're not paying for downtime or capability you don't use.

WHAT'S INSIDE

The full guide · A spec comparison chart · A pre-purchase checklist

SKID STEER, TRACK LOADER, OR EXCAVATOR?

Before you look at a single spec sheet, answer three questions: what's the ground like, what's the job, and how often does this machine move between sites. Those three answers narrow the field faster than any brochure will.

Ground conditions decide tires versus tracks. On pavement, gravel lots, and hard-packed ground, a wheeled skid steer like the SSV Series is cheaper to run and faster to move. Tires wear less on hard surfaces, there's no undercarriage to pack with mud and stone, and two-speed travel gets you across a site quickly. On wet ground, turf, or loose fill, tracks win. A track loader spreads the machine's weight over a longer footprint, so you stay working instead of digging ruts into a customer's yard or a soft subgrade.

Job type decides loader versus excavator. If the work is pushing, carrying, loading trucks, or moving material around a site, you want a loader, wheeled or tracked. If the work is digging below grade, trenching for utilities, or setting footers, you need an excavator's boom and bucket geometry. A skid steer or track loader can scrape and grade, but it can't dig a clean trench four feet down the way a compact excavator can.

How often the machine changes sites matters more than owners think. A crew running one job for weeks at a time can justify a heavier, tracked machine even if it's slower to trailer. A crew bouncing between three or four properties a day needs something that loads and unloads fast and doesn't beat up the trailer or the truck. That's often where a wheeled skid steer or a smaller excavator earns its keep over a bigger tracked unit that looks better on paper.

MATCHING MACHINE TO JOB

Tight in-and-out material handling. If you're moving mulch, soil, or stone through a gate or a side yard a full-size loader can't touch, the SCL1000 stand-on track loader is built for exactly that. It's 36 inches wide, runs a 9.8-inch track at 4.0 psi ground pressure, and still handles 1,000 lb rated operating capacity. You get real loader capability with minimal turf and grade damage, which matters when the customer is standing in the yard watching you work.

The do-everything jobsite machine. For most contractors, a compact track loader is the machine that earns its keep across the widest range of jobs. The SVL Series covers a lot of ground: the SVL65-2s (68.4 HP) is sized for tighter sites without giving up real capability, the SVL75-3 (71.6 HP, 2,490 lb operating capacity) handles everyday commercial work, and the SVL97-3 (96.4 HP, 3,459 lb capacity) or SVL110-3HFDCC (112.7 HP, 3,700 lb capacity, Hi-Flow standard) step up for heavier material handling and larger sites. All of them use a vertical-lift design and a low center of gravity, so the load stays stable at full reach instead of swinging out on you.

When wheels make more sense than tracks. If most of your work is on pavement, hard-packed lots, or long stretches of hard ground and the machine needs to cover distance fast, the SSV Series skid steer is worth a hard look. The SSV65 (64 HP) and SSV75 (74.3 HP) run two-speed travel up to 11.1 to 11.8 mph, cost less to maintain since there's no undercarriage, and still deliver strong lift capacity, up to 2,690 lb on the SSV75.

Trenching and utility work. This is where you need an excavator, not a loader. For tight, fenced-in properties where the machine can't overhang into a fence line, a sidewalk, or traffic, the U Series zero and tight tail swing excavators are built for it, with the retractable track frame on smaller models fitting through a standard gate. If tail swing isn't the constraint, the KX Series covers the same size range with strong digging numbers, and the KX040-5 adds a hydraulic 6-in-1 blade that angles and tilts for fast grading and backfill after the trench is in. For indoor demo or basement work, the K008-5 or U10-5 are Kubota's smallest excavators, sized to get through a doorway. For the heaviest commercial digging, the KX080-5R3 and U55-5 top out the lineup with 14,660 lb and 10,172 lb of bucket breakout force.

ATTACHMENTS ARE WHERE THE ROI IS

A lot of contractors shop the base machine and treat attachments as an afterthought. That's backwards. The base machine determines what you can lift and how it moves. The attachment lineup determines how many different jobs that machine can actually do, and that's what decides whether it earns money in every season or sits idle half the year.

A general-purpose bucket, a set of pallet forks, a grapple for brush and demo debris, an auger for post holes and fence work, and a broom or blade for cleanup will turn one loader into a machine that works grading jobs in the spring, material handling all summer, and site cleanup or snow in the winter. The SVL and SSV Series both run standard auxiliary hydraulics, with optional high-flow available for the attachments that need it, augers, mulchers, and other high-demand tools included. Before you commit to an attachment, confirm your machine's hydraulic output actually matches what that attachment needs. That's a ten-minute conversation with your dealer that saves you a bad surprise on day one.

The same logic applies to excavators. A trenching bucket and a grading bucket cover most utility work, and a hydraulic thumb adds control for handling rock, logs, and debris without repositioning the machine constantly. One machine with the right two or three attachments will out-earn a bigger machine that only does one thing well.

UPTIME, FINANCING, AND WHAT TO ASK A DEALER

Sticker price tells you almost nothing about what a machine will actually cost you over five years. What tells you more: how often it breaks down, how fast it gets fixed when it does, and whether parts are sitting on a shelf nearby or three weeks out on backorder. A machine that's a little more expensive up front but rarely leaves you waiting will beat a cheaper machine that costs you a crew standing around twice a season.

Before you buy, ask any dealer three things: what's the realistic service turnaround during peak season, what wear parts and common repair items do they actually stock locally, and can they build hydraulic hoses in-house or do you wait on a special order. A blown hose or a worn cutting edge should be a same-day fix, not a lost week.

On financing, think about the job the machine needs to do this year and next, not just this month's payment. A predictable monthly payment on the right-sized machine is usually cheaper in the long run than nursing an

older, undersized unit through missed schedule slots and overtime. Bring your typical job list, not your one big outlier job, and a straight answer on financing gets a lot easier to give.

SPEC COMPARISON CHART

Loaders and excavators compared — by ground, job, and site access

SERIES & MODELS	KEY SPECS	BEST FOR
SCL Stand-On Track Loader SCL1000	24.8 HP	Tight in-and-out material handling through gates and side yards a full-size loader can't reach.
SVL Series SVL65-2s, SVL75-3, SVL97-3, SVL110-3HFDCC	68.4–112.7 HP	The do-everything jobsite track loader; vertical-lift keeps the load stable at full reach.
SSV Series SSV65, SSV75	64–74.3 HP	Pavement and hard-packed ground — cheaper to run and faster to move than tracks.
U Series U10-5, U17, U27-4, U35-4, U48-5, U55-5	5'11"–11'11" dig depth, 2,337–10,172 lb breakout force	Zero/tight tail swing for fenced-in properties and tight sites.
KX Series K008-5, KX018-5, KX033-4, KX040-5, KX057-5, KX080-5R3	5'8"–15'1" dig depth, 2,205–14,660 lb breakout force	Widest digging range; KX040-5 adds a hydraulic 6-in-1 blade.

Specs shown are published Kubota/Land Pride figures for reference. Current pricing, financing, and trade-in value aren't listed here — call (330) 868-6419 or stop by and we'll run real numbers for your situation.

PRE-PURCHASE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Bring this along whether you're looking at new or used equipment.

- ☐ Check the hour meter — and ask if it matches the maintenance records
- ☐ Inspect cutting edges, teeth, and blades for uneven or excessive wear
- ☐ Check gearboxes and driveline joints for play or looseness
- ☐ Inspect all hydraulic hoses for cracking, weeping, or soft spots
- ☐ Check pins and bushings on the loader and 3-point arms for wear
- ☐ Start the machine cold — note starting time, smoke color, and any warning lights
- ☐ Cycle the loader and any hydraulic attachments through their full range
- ☐ Ask for maintenance records — what's been done, and when
- ☐ Ask why the machine is for sale
- ☐ Ask about remaining factory warranty (new) or extended coverage options
- ☐ Ask the dealer about service turnaround time and what wear parts they stock locally

WHEN YOU'RE READY

If you're weighing a skid steer against a track loader, or trying to figure out whether a job calls for a loader or an excavator, bring us the details, your ground conditions, your typical loads, and how often the machine moves, and we'll help you land on a setup that actually fits. Stop by Unkefer Sales at 1115 N. Market St. in Minerva, or call (330) 868-6419. We're open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, and Saturday 8am to noon.

This toolkit includes a spec comparison chart and a pre-purchase checklist you won't find on the web page. If you'd like a written recommendation with real pricing for your property, or want to talk financing or a trade-in, just call or stop by — we're glad to run the numbers with you.