Savage Range Systems

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Special Edition

The Truth About Wet Snail Traps

Some competitors have published misleading information about our Wet Snail Traps. We produce a variety of bullet traps…wet, dry, rubber…which enables us to provide our customers with the best traps for their needs. **For more than a decade, Savage has held the patent on the "Wet" Bullet Trap.** It utilizes clear water combined with a very light solution of biodegradable oil. This water is sprayed over the area of the ramp where the majority of the bullets will strike, and inside the circular deceleration chamber where the majority of lead dust is generated in **any** trap. The water serves two purposes: to encapsulate lead dust which would otherwise become airborne, and to reduce the friction of the bullets against the steel. The result is reduced bullet fragmentation, less airborne lead dust, cleaner air, and less time and cost associated with maintenance. Consequently, as other manufacturers are not permitted to market a "wet" trap they periodically publish negative statements about our patented system. They claim to dispel "myths" which they themselves concocted. Let's address these "myths" and set the record straight:

- **#1 – "Manufacturers of Wet Steel Traps claim you can use any type of ammunition on a wet steel trap."** No manufacturer of any bullet trap would ever be so foolish as to make such a claim about a wet trap or any other bullet trap. There are many factors which determine the type of ammunition which can be fired into any given bullet trap, including the type and thickness of the steel used, the angle of the ramps, and the diameter of the deceleration chamber. This myth is put forth because our competitors know that all things being equal, **a Savage Wet Snail Trap will last longer and show less wear under heavy use of large caliber firearms than a comparable dry trap.**

- **#2 – "Manufacturers of Wet Steel Traps claim to eliminate lead dust on your range."** Again, no manufacturer would dare make such a foolish assertion. The purpose of the Wet Snail Trap is to minimize the fragmentation of the bullets when they strike the wet ramp (which is where the vast majority of bullets will strike), and during deceleration inside the chamber (which is where the majority of the lead dust is created), and to keep that dust from becoming airborne. Dust created at the firing line or by errant strikes on the upper ramp cannot be contained by a Wet Trap or any other trap, and to imply that such an assertion has been made is a falsehood. Our competitors put forth this myth because they realize the **Savage Wet Snail Trap does more to eliminate airborne lead dust than any other bullet trap available.**

- **#3 - "Manufacturers of Wet Steel Traps claim to capture all bullets whole and eliminate splatter and ricochet."** This is only a slight falsehood. The truth is that Wet Snail Traps do indeed produce bullets that are less fragmented than any other trap. Our traps also protect the shooter from splatter or ricochet, even when shooting at point blank range. Is this a bad

thing? This myth is meant as an excuse for competitors' traps which severely fragment bullets, as opposed to those of **the Savage Wet Snail Trap which produces less fragmented bullets than any other bullet trap**.

- **#4 – "Manufacturers of Wet Steel Traps claim they are more environmentally friendly than dry bullet traps."** This is indeed entirely true. The lead dust that is captured in the water settles to the bottom of the recirculation tank and may be safely removed and recycled along with the recovered bullets. The water in the wet trap itself is recycled through recirculation, and over time evaporates out of the system as clean, pure water. Therefore the water will regularly need to be replenished, but needn't be replaced or discarded. Lead that is removed from dry dust collection systems must be disposed of as hazardous material. The difficulty associated with lead disposal from dry traps is far greater than that of a Wet Snail Trap. **The Savage Wet Snail Trap is indeed guilty of being the cleanest, most environmentally-friendly steel bullet trap available.**

- **#5 – "Manufacturers of Wet Steel Traps claim they function equally well indoors and outdoors."** Once again, this is an attempt to discredit a claim that has not been made. Although there have been some requests for outdoor installation, Savage only recommends the Wet Snail Trap for indoor or enclosed applications. That dry traps may be better for outdoor use has nothing to do with the fact that **Savage Wet Snail Traps are the ideal bullet traps for indoor use.**

- **#6 - "Manufacturers of Wet Steel Traps claim one-piece welded funnel plates are better than modular funnel plates."** Welded ramps are an integral component of the Savage Wet Snail Trap. Interestingly they are criticized because **"you can end up with a bullet trap that is much more difficult to service or repair should anything go wrong."** This observation comes from manufacturers of traps which frequently *do* have things go wrong and require repairs to their traps, up to and including complete removal and replacement. Their ramps feature cover strips to protect the joints of their ramps, which also create an uneven surface that may result in dangerous splatter or ricochet, especially when shot at close range. Unlike our competitor's products, **Savage Wet Snail Traps can be serviced with no need to remove the heavy, bulky steel ramps, and require no cover strips which will likely result in splatter or ricochet.**

- **#7 – "Some manufacturers claim funnel plates mounted at a 12 or 13 degree angle function significantly better than funnel plates mounted at a 15 degree angle."** This is another instance where the manufacturer tries to make an excuse for their product. The use of **steeper ramps** is a savings to them on the cost of materials and economizes on space, and then they claim that it doesn't make any difference in performance. If their claims that "the ramp's steeper angle is irrelevant" are true, **why not place them at seventeen or twenty or twenty-five degrees instead of fifteen?** Because they know a lower angle is better. **Lower angles mean less impact on the ramp, less damage to the bullet, and a longer life for the trap.**

- **#8 – "A 30-inch diameter in the circular deceleration chamber is better than a 26-inch diameter**." Using the same logic as above, **if a 26-inch chamber is as good as a 30-inch chamber; why not make it 24 inches, or 20 inches?** Because other manufacturers know a larger deceleration chamber is better, but they must justify their product by claiming it **"saves space"**. At Savage, we prefer to **save lives** by creating a safer, cleaner breathing environment. We also save use **thicker steel** for the deceleration chamber which **extends the life of the trap.** Some manufacturers also claim to produce **circular** deceleration chambers but actually deliver **octagonal** chambers, or even **semi-circular** chambers with smash plates hidden inside. These bullet traps create much greater bullet fragmentation and increased airborne lead dust. Because **Savage Snail Traps are large, smooth, 360-degree circular deceleration chambers,** there is much less bullet fragmentation. **Likewise, the use of smaller deceleration chambers results in increased friction between the bullets and**

the inside of the deceleration chamber, creating even more hazardous lead dust. As to why Savage does not utilize larger chambers or lower angle ramps, the answer is, **"We do!"** For our largest traps which are meant to handle a steady diet of full-auto.50 caliber ammunition, Savage utilizes deceleration chambers which are a full 48" in diameter, and ramps which are set at 7 degree angles. **Because at Savage we believe in delivering the right bullet trap for the customer's needs, not the trap that is expedient and economical for our manufacturing purposes.**

- **#9 – "Manufacturers of Wet Steel Traps claim Wet Steel Traps don't require much maintenance."** Once again it must be confessed that this is indeed true. Safety, cleanliness, and low maintenance are among the greatest benefits of the Savage Wet Snail Trap. Of course routine maintenance should be expected with any bullet trap whether it is a wet or dry trap, and **it may be considered deceptive for one to show pictures of poorly maintained shooting ranges and present them as though they are representative of the quality of the bullet trap.** The components of the Savage Wet Snail Trap are simpler, more reliable, and require less electrical energy and maintenance that those of a dry trap with a dust collection system. In addition, routine maintenance on a Wet Trap can be performed with no need to wear specialized protective gear. However, the U.S. Department of Labor requires personnel to wear Respirators and special Hazardous Material Protective Suits to perform routine maintenance on dry traps. **The Savage Wet Snail Trap is indeed cleaner and lower maintenance than any dry bullet trap available.**

Manufacturers who must resort to concocting false claims or put forth misleading statements and photographs should be looked upon with great skepticism. Our competitors may manufacture bullet traps which may be slightly smaller or less expensive than our own, and they are welcome to enjoy that distinction. At Savage we have no such aspirations. We will continue to manufacture superior products for discriminating customers who are not deceived by the excuses and false claims of copycats. **The Snail Trap produced by Savage Range Systems is quite simply the finest bullet trap available anywhere.**

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