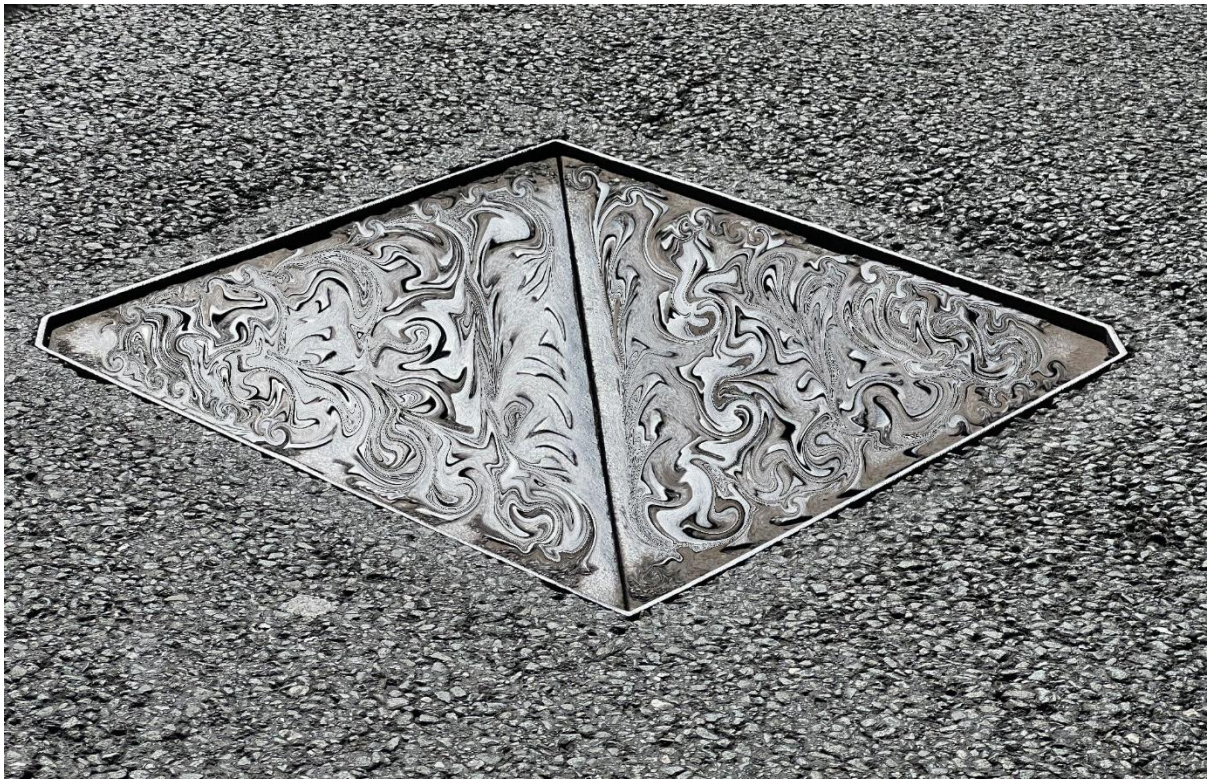
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Avoid that sinking feeling, choose Access Covers from Thomas Dudley Utility Products.

UTILITY PRODUCTS

While travelling to sites across the UK, we've noticed an increasing number of recently installed access covers on carriageways that no longer sit flush with their frames. Over time, many covers have sunk or dropped by as much as 10 mm — creating uneven surfaces and undermining the long-term quality of the installation.



When a cover and frame is properly installed, the top surface of the cover should sit level with the frame and stay level for many years. This ensures the anti-skid surface performs as designed and keeps the ride smooth for passing traffic, reducing impact loading and long-term wear.

But what's causing covers to drop inside a frame? In almost every case, it comes down to poor product design — not how it was installed:

- **Excessive clearance between the cover and frame** allows unwanted movement under repeated traffic loads. This movement rapidly wears down the seating areas.
- **Small seating areas** concentrate the forces. Since force equals load divided by area, the smaller the seating surface, the greater the local stresses — accelerating wear and causing the cover to sink into the frame.

It's also important to note that **EN124-2 specifies a maximum total clearance of 9 mm between the cover and frame combining all 3 gaps on a double tri version.** Many of the problematic covers we see exceed this, making them far more prone to movement, wear, and ultimately, costly failures.

At Thomas Dudley Utility Products, we take a different approach. Our covers are always engineered with a tight fit well within EN124-2 limits and designed with generous seating pads to spread the load. This dramatically reduces the chances of sinking, — helping ensure your installations stay level for many years after they're installed.

So, if you want to avoid that sinking feeling — and protect the quality of your work on carriageways — choose **Thomas Dudley Utility Products. Better by design.**