

New Technology For Cleaning And Maintenance Of Concrete Floors

Maintenance of concrete floors has never been more challenging for today's manufacturing, warehousing and industrial facilities. With the constant evolvement of quality and environmental standards such as TS16949, QS9000, ISO9002, ISO14001, facility managers have to focus increasingly on plant cleanliness and maintenance, including concrete floor maintenance programs. Concrete by its' nature dusts and powders and is very porous and extremely difficult to clean. Over the last 20 years, many plants have bought into acrylic, epoxy and urethane coatings to enhance the aesthetics and cleanability of their concrete floors. While the initial aesthetics of a new coating is very attractive, the coatings unfortunately are prone to vapour emission problems, they debond, discolour, mar, scratch and abrade, hold dirt and tire marks and lose their gloss and aesthetics quite easily. The heavy traffic and abrasion in most plants quickly degrades and damages these coatings thereby creating a never-ending cycle of maintenance headaches with substantial associated costs.



As an alternative to the use of traditional floor coatings, there is good news available to facility managers in the form of a new green technology, which alters and enhances the surface of the concrete. The Retro Plate System™ is a relatively new-patented technology that mechanically and chemically alters the molecular structure of the concrete surface. The density, hardness and abrasion resistance of the concrete surface can be enhanced up to 400% permanently. It is important to clarify that the Retro Plate System™ is not a coating or a resurfacer.

The Retro Plate System™ is available through a worldwide network of trained certified applicators with over 50 million square feet already installed. Eckhart Reichenbach, president of BNE Contractors Inc., introduced the Retro Plate System™ to Ontario manufacturing plants in 2001 and claims their company has installed well over one million square feet in Ontario since that time. New and existing concrete is chemically and mechanically enhanced, densified, polished and develops a glossy, water repellent, hard, abrasion resistant shell which is extremely easy to clean and maintain. The Retro Plate System™ is available with different levels of reflectivity. Dusting is completely eliminated. Hard to clean concrete floors are transformed into beautiful looking surfaces that are super easy to maintain. No expensive harsh chemicals are required for normal upkeep...plain water is the only product needed in most cases to maintain a clean, smooth, dense, lustrous floor. Even black tire marks remove 100% with ease. The initial cost of the Retro Plate System™ is recovered quickly with the elimination of coating maintenance and repairs, extensive labour for cleaning, and reduced costs associated with sundry items such as cleaning



chemicals, mops and pads. All this combined with far less deterioration of automatic floor cleaning equipment will amount to huge savings for facility managers in a relatively short period of time. The abrasion resistance of the concrete is enhanced up to 400% and the coefficient of friction does not decrease when wet and exceeds OSHA and ADA recommendations. Applicators of the Retro Plate System™ back their claims with test evaluations performed by independent consulting engineers. They also offer numerous references, client testimonials and plant tours to validate their claims. One facility manager of a company which removed 100,000 square feet of coating in favour of the Retro Plate System™ estimates that he has reduced his floor maintenance and cleaning costs by 90%.

The Retro Plate System™ has been used in several LEED certified projects and complies with USDA safety requirements. It contains no carcinogens, mutagens, or teratogen classified as hazardous substances, or heavy metals and is odorless, non-flammable, non-toxic, and comes with a 10-year warranty. It is a green system for a responsible, environmentally friendly and practical approach to permanently eliminating ongoing concrete flooring maintenance challenges.

Additional information is provided on BNE's website at www.retroplate.ca or by calling 1-888-738-6606 □