

advertisement feature

Finding your way through the matting maze!

Entrance matting. It's functional, it's low tech and its benefits are well known, so what's to learn? Well if you're looking to replace or specify entrance matting for your site in the near future, you need to know you're going to be faced with the option of over 100 different matting products. And no, every matting product is not the same, they don't all do the same job and they are not all suitable for your site! There are options of aluminium or PVC, open or closed construction with a variety of textile or rubber inserts as well as the consideration of how the product is going to be maintained. So with all this in mind how do you choose from the myriad of matting options that are available?

This was the situation the operations team at Drake Circus in the centre of Plymouth found themselves in twelve months ago. When the centre was built in 2006, each entrance had aluminium style matting installed, however only two years after the matting had been fitted, it was clear that the product was not right for the site.

Nigel Poulson, Drake Circus' Operations Manager explained "Our Cornwall Street entrance is multi-directional, with visitors entering through doorways set at 90 degrees to each other. When the original matting had been installed it was obvious this had not been accounted for, as visitors entering through one set of doors were walking along the lengths of the installation, rather than across them, giving little foot cleaning or drying properties."

"When we started looking for a replacement product, the number of options available was quite staggering. Syncros surveyed our site and of all the different manufacturer products available,



recommended installing Milliken Obex Forma in a closed format, which as a PVC tile product could be easily installed on a diagonal, removing the problems we were having."

The choice between aluminium and PVC products is usually an aesthetic decision, but as



A diagonal installation of Milliken Obex Forma solved the issue at Drake Circus

Drake Circus demonstrated, there are situations where one type is better suited to an installation than the other. The choice of open or closed construction is usually influenced by the cleaning and maintenance regime that is available within the centre. Closed matting collects the removed dirt into recessed areas within the mat, whereas open matting allows dirt particles to fall through the installation and collect in the matwell below. Both should be vacuumed daily, however open matting requires the installation to be periodically removed and the mat well vacuumed to remove the collected dirt, a process which can be time consuming and fiddly, making closed matting easier to maintain. Closed matting also has a greater inherent strength, making it more suited for high traffic areas. However every site will have local



Plymouth's Drake Circus used Syncros' expertise to ensure the right matting was installed

variables that influence the decision on the right matting for the application, which is why it's so important that the supplier carries out a site survey.

Nigel Poulson comments, "Syncros consulted with the Drake Circus team on how the mats would be incorporated into our cleaning regime, and provided full instructions on how best to care for the product, and accordingly we vacuum the installations daily, and steam clean them once a month. 12 months and 18 million visitors later, the matting still looks great and when its steam cleaned it's even returned to looking like new!"

The Milliken Obex Forma tiles have proved such a success at the Cornwall Street entrance with regards to their effectiveness and appearance, that Drake Circus have now replaced the matting at their other two entranceways with the same product.

As the name suggests, Syncros Entrance Matting Systems are experts in the supply and installation of entrance barrier matting, and have been since 1995. Syncros are unique in being able to offer virtually every matting solution from the ranges of all the leading manufacturers. Its comprehensive service is second to none and includes site surveys, consultation and advice on the right matting solution for the site, as well as expert installation and advice on maintenance. With a combination of knowledge, skill, value for money and attention to detail, Syncros always ensures your matting requirements are delivered on time and within budget, and with new finance options also available, a new matting installation could work out to be more cost effective than you think!

For further details, contact Syncros

01234 314314

email sales@syncros.co.uk

www.syncros.co.uk

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