

Key to the Floor: unlocking the secrets of entrance matting

Entrance matting in shopping centres has to fulfil many requirements to prevent slips, trips and falls and protect the centre's hard floors. But with so many choices on the market, what is the key to picking the right one? Size, shape, type of traffic, safety requirements and of course budget are all fundamental factors when considering suitable flooring options.



Tim Wright, Operations Manager for Incentive Facilities Management, at Idlewells Shopping Centre in Nottinghamshire, was familiar with the variety of matting options available, but needed to prioritise his list of requirements and draw up a plan. He was primarily concerned about health and safety when looking to replace the entrance matting at his shopping centre. Design and budget were obviously a concern, but after consultation with Syncros, they were satisfied they could fulfil all their obligations in one installation. For their installation, which consisted of three entranceways, Idlewells chose Milliken Forma, a closed construction, interlocking tile variant and used a border of complimentary Obex Prior tiles.

Tim Wright commented, "Idlewells Shopping Centre is a busy retail environment, and as such, we are used to getting high volumes of foot traffic over our mats. Over time, the non fixed matting became worn and as a result, the edges of the matting would curl over, leaving them turned up presenting us with a real trip hazard. This was becoming a big issue, both operationally and from an insurance perspective, so we knew we needed to replace our matting with an alternative that suited our multiple requirements.

"Whilst maintaining a pleasant environment for our shoppers is an important factor, upholding health and safety standards will always be the primary influence when it comes to selecting a matting solution for the centre.

Milliken Prior and Forma tiles are both complementary to the style and decor of Idlewells, combined, the matting solution keeps dirt at the door and accidents at bay.

"After assessing the safety options required to ensure the wellbeing of our customers, our secondary considerations were cost and design. We wanted our entrance matting to fit in with the existing



environment within our shopping centre. We also needed an ongoing maintenance programme that would fit in with our future plans and budgets. This installation added an element of design, but also proved to be a very cost effective option. Syncros talked us through a sustainable, manageable budget which in the long term, will result in considerable cost savings".

Syncros has supplied custom matting solutions to shopping centres across the UK, and is used to dealing with the many different requirements their customers demand. Many factors can affect the choice of entrance matting, but with their extensive experience within the shopping centre sector, Syncros can help choose a

solution that is fit for purpose and cost effective. A tide of shopping centres are now choosing the Milliken product due to its durability and resistance to dirt and water, and the ease by which well size can be extended by the use of surface mounting. Damaged sections of Milliken Forma can be replaced by changing only the individual tiles and not the complete unit as with other systems, making maintenance easy, and accidents difficult.

Syncros has a combined knowledge of over 100 years experience in supplying and fitting entrance matting systems, and has a team of highly experienced installers that can offer comprehensive advice and guidance on preparation, installation and maintenance for all entrance matting products and ranges.

"We chose Syncros for the installation as the product was right, the price was right, and the service was exceptional", said Tim Wright, "and we would not hesitate to work with them again in the future".

For further details, contact Syncros on 01234 314314 or email sales@syncros.co.uk www.syncros.co.uk

