

Who should protect and Why:

In this fast paced world of the modern day construction site, contractors are faced with many challenges in order to turn a profit on a project. Constrictive work sites, exorbitant liquidated damages just to name a few. With these pressures often leading to the workplace becoming a clambering mess as contractors and tradesmen attempt to complete their scope of work within the tight construction window they have been given.

This situation can of course manifest into a number of issues including accidents and damages, not to mention injuries or even worse. The Project Manager more than ever has a great responsibility to ensure control is maintained.

Consequently, installed construction materials particularly those that are in constant contact with trafficable trades are often at great risk for accidental damage. More often than not there is no one perpetrator that can be held accountable and so lies the question...who's responsible for fixing it once it's damaged?

Let me come back a bit – what materials are at risk for this delicate and problematic issue?. Well it could probably fall into two categories - the materials which are in the main areas of traffic such as floor coverings, and benchtops - these areas are generally defined to interior applications. Secondly and conversely, the areas which make up the external elements of a building such as glass and other façade materials. The greatest issue for most of these elements is that the damage means replacement not repair.

Now let's move on to who's responsible... ultimately it is the Client's liability however, invariably the builder or main contractor will be the one stuck with this problem. On some projects the main contractor will enforce the need for contractors to protect their own work and sometimes place the onus on them even if other trades damage their work. The difficulty is that trades people who cause the damage are never held accountable and the problem is bandaged not cured.

Nonetheless this is the problem we are faced with and the solution is to find a material which can solve the issues with minimal expense.

There is a new wonder material that has entered the market and is causing quite a fuss amongst contractors and tradesman alike. The product is called *Construct Wrap* and is manufactured by an Australian company – Skudo Coatings Pty Ltd. The concept is simple.... paint it on, then peel it off!. The coatings act like a paint-able drop sheet' and offers amazing protection against foreign airborne materials that encounter these surfaces. The General' range can even weather foot traffic to protect newly laid tiles or timber flooring from the risks of muddy and potentially damaging work boots.

The Window UV has been field tested for over two years and still able to be peeled easily for a clean residue free surface underneath. The products are also hitting goals in the marine industry as fiberglass boating companies are using the material to protect during the construction and delivery of their luxury boats.

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