

Pentagon Welcomes Soy-Backed Entry Mats



Employees and Visitors Enter Building on Environmentally Sustainable Mats

Home to America's Department of Defense, the Pentagon is one of the most widely recognized buildings in the world and also one of the largest. It is twice the size of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago, and has three times the floor space of the Empire State Building in New York.

The Pentagon was built during the early years of World War II and is still thought of as one of the most efficient office buildings in the world. Despite 17.5 miles of corridors, it takes only seven minutes to walk between any two points in the building.

In 2010, the Pentagon began a pilot test of a new entryway mat made by EcoPath™ at one of their main entrances (the Metro Entrance Facility). EcoPath™ mats are made from recycled, recovered, and sustainable materials. The backing system uses recycled plastic bottles (4 per square yard); naturally renewable soybean-based polyols; natural rubber and refined minerals

recovered from coal-burning electrical power plants.

The EcoPath™ mats were brought to the attention of the Pentagon Environmental Office (PEO) and the Pentagon Building Management Office (PBMO) by the United Soybean Board (USB). PBMO had identified performance issues with the mats being used in the building and agreed to work with PEO and USB to test the new mats. The old mats often curled around the edges and frequently moved out of place. The EcoPath™ mats do not have this curling issue and are far less subject to any movement, plus they have the added benefit of being made from environmentally preferable materials.





By procuring the new mats, the Pentagon was able to reaffirm its commitment to sustainability by acquiring a product containing renewable, biobased materials as well as recycled materials.

After the successful pilot test, the Pentagon contracted with EcoPath™ to replace the old mats at all entrances with new ones made with soy backing. The first group of new mats arrived in May 2011 and additional mats were installed in late June. In total, 82 soy-backed entry mats (covering just over 7,800 square feet or about 1/5 acre) are being used at various entrances and exits throughout the building.

The mats are a cost-effective solution to the heavy pedestrian traffic needs of the Pentagon. Each day approximately 24,000 people enter and leave the Pentagon. Prior to installation of the EcoPath™ mats, the Pentagon “rented” mats that were removed for cleaning and replaced every two weeks. The new mats provide a long-term, cost-effective solution.

The procurement of EcoPath™ matting, arranged by the Pentagon Environmental Office, supports

FACT FILE

EcoPath™

Mark Bobo 706-271-6477
mbobo@textilemanagement.com

Pentagon

Mike Langone (703) 614-9324
Michael.Langone@whs.mil

President Obama’s Executive Order 13514, ensuring that products acquired by federal agencies contain recycled content, biobased content, and be less-toxic alternatives to traditional products of the same type.

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The mats are heavy duty, do not curl, and can be cleaned in house. When a replacement order is made at the end of a mat’s useable life, EcoPath™ takes back the discarded matting and recycles it into other high-quality product components, such as AstroTurf® infill and recyclable carpet and mat backing. This regenerative process is EcoPath’s™ cradle-to-cradle guarantee.



The 69 farmer-directors of USB oversee the investments of the soy checkoff to maximize profit opportunities for all U.S. soybean farmers. These volunteers invest and leverage checkoff funds to increase the value of U.S. soy meal and oil, to ensure U.S. soybean farmers and their customers have the freedom and infrastructure to operate, and to meet the needs of U.S. soy’s customers. As stipulated in the federal Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for USB and the soy checkoff.



16305 Swingley Ridge Rd., Ste. 120, Chesterfield, MO 63017
1-888-579-1580 FAX: 314-579-1599 merker@smithbucklin.com
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