

London Project Experiences Cost Savings and Reduced Waste by Using YULEYS[®]

Certain environments rely on single use disposable plastic shoe covers to help mitigate the tracking of mud, dirt and hazardous materials from the work floor to other areas of your worksite, or even back home. Depending on the application, a more robust kind of shoe or boot cover can be more appropriate to not only get the job done – but to save time and money, reduce waste and increase sustainability.

Background

The BAM Nuttall, Morgan Sindall, Balfour Beatty joint venture is working to deliver the 7km west section of the Thames Tideway Tunnel project to update a 150-year-old sewer system that was sending millions of tons of raw sewage spills, untreated, into the River Thames each year. This feat includes building a Super Sewer to intercept spills and clean up the river. At 25 kilometres long, the project is the biggest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the UK water industry.

Once completed, Thames Water will operate the tunnel as an integral part of the London sewerage network, while Tideway will be responsible for its day-to-day maintenance. Thames Water is the UK's largest water and wastewater services company, supplying around 2.6 million litres of tap water to nine million customers across London and the Thames Valley every day. It also removes and treats more than four billion litres of sewage for 15 million customers.

The Issue

Workers were required to wear shoe covers to help keep designated shared areas clean and were given disposable covers to comply with worksite rules. As construction began on the new tunnel, engineers on site were complaining that the single-use disposable shoe covers they had to wear were not effective. Not only were they tearing during the workday, discarded covers were causing



YULEYS[®] are simple to rinse clean and air dry

poor housekeeping on site by continually being blown out of the rubbish bins. Wanting to ensure the workforce stayed safe and to demonstrate waste avoidance, action was taken to find a cost-effective solution.

The Solution

After receiving this feedback, the joint venture environmental team explored alternative solutions to using disposable shoe covers – and discovered YULEYS[®], sold by HexArmor[®]. YULEYS[®] are reusable work boot and shoe covers that can be easily slipped into and reused, while providing greater traction and protecting floors and walls. Made of solid rubber construction, YULEYS[®] come in several sizes and are easy to clean and dry quickly.

The joint venture between BAM Nuttall Limited, Morgan Sindall & Infrastructure Limited and Balfour Beatty Group Ltd are delivering the Thames Tideway Tunnel.

More than 400 highly experienced professionals are employed by this joint venture to deliver the project, working alongside the company's four main delivery partners.

Preparatory work on the project began in 2015 and construction is now underway at each of the 24 sites in London. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2024.

Some sites on this project ordered each YULEY® size in a different color to make identification easier when multiple pairs were stored in one area and shared by end users. Cleaning stations were set up that were easy-to-use. Once implemented on the site, the site manager found immediate benefits:

- Reduction of single-use plastic and waste
- Better protection from contaminating carpets
- Reduced carpet cleaning fees
- Cleanliness of designated shared areas

The Result

Effectiveness:

YULEYS® have been introduced at 3 out of the 24 Tideway sites to reduce/replace the number of single use disposable plastic shoe covers. No additional single use disposable plastic shoe covers have been ordered at any of the 3 sites since their introduction. Employees like YULEYS® because they are comfortable and effective at keeping desired areas clean. Feedback has been positive and as a result YULEYS® are being worn and used everyday, with no recorded issues regarding incorrect sizing.

Reduction of plastic waste:

Approximately 50-90kg of plastic landfill waste was prevented over 10 months across sites. Because of this success, the parent company would like to better understand how



The YULEYS® Clean Step System

other project sites are monitoring their plastic waste, as some sites don't have requirements for any disposable shoe covers.

Future plans:

Moving forward, the parent companies are looking at the possibility to replace disposable shoe covers with YULEYS® across other construction sites.

HexArmor® is an industry leading manufacturer of high performance personal protective equipment (PPE) made with technologies that push the limits of cut, puncture, needle, and abrasion resistance. Our mission is simple: give you better products with better technology designed with end user needs and collaboration. HexArmor® works with industries from oil and gas, to mining, food processing and waste recycling to design the best working and most protective glove available today.

Features & Benefits:

- Made of industrial-grade SEBS rubber
- Hands-free on-and-off
- Heel-lock system
- Flexible design
- Reduces effects on landfills
- Patent Pending

