

Which way to maximum protection?

Clear direction is crucial to a profitable centre, but when it comes to entranceways, the direction of the footfall can create its own problems. It's well known that entrance matting can play an important role in the efficient running of a busy centre by reducing cleaning expenditure, extending the life of flooring and helping to reduce the risk of slip accidents, but when you have a non-standard or multi-directional traffic flow, finding the right matting solution is even more important to ensure that such all-important protection is offered.

Directionality of footfall was the issue faced by Tony Parrott, Centre Manager for Bracknell Regeneration Partnership at Princess Square Shopping Centre, Bracknell, "Traffic entering the Pavilion entrance, makes an immediate 90 degree left turn on the entrance matting, so customers were walking both across and along the lengths of the previous matting installation, which wasn't ideal for maximum moisture or dirt removal."

"Therefore, when it came to the refurbishment of this entranceway, we had a combination of criteria that needed to be met – we needed a smart, aesthetically pleasing solution that would work with the non-standard directionality of the traffic flow, plus matting that could be easily cleaned by our team and of course was cost effective."

"We looked at numerous options and the solution that ticked all the boxes was the Milliken Obex Forma matting from Syncros. Following the site survey, Syncros suggested a dual direction installation of this product in order to ensure maximum foot cleaning and drying."

The dual direction installation was



The diagonal installation at Drake Circus, Plymouth captures footfall from entrances set at 90 degrees to each other

achieved using a diagonal T-bar allowing the Obex Forma tiles to be laid at 90 degrees to each other. The Milliken Obex Forma matting consists of a PVC tile with high twist nylon fabric inserts for maximum moisture removal. With each tile measuring 19.5cm square, this enables such an installation to be created with minimal wastage and offers the customer the advantage that in the future, if required, small areas can easily be replaced at minimal cost.



The tile size of the Milliken Obex Forma is ideal for non-standard installations as it ensures minimum wastage

Tony concludes, "This proved to be a very cost effective solution, and we're very happy with both the completed installation and the service provided, as within a week of placing the order, the installation was complete!"

Multi-directional traffic flow can also create a similar situation, as the operations team at Plymouth's Drake Circus discovered. Nigel Poulson, Operations Manager explained "Our Cornwall Street entrance is multi-directional, with visitors entering through doorways set at 90 degrees to each other. This meant that visitors entering through one set of doors were walking



The dual direction installation at Princess Square Shopping Centre, Bracknell is ideal for capturing maximum foot borne dirt & moisture

along the lengths of our previous matting installation, rather than across them, giving little foot cleaning or drying properties."

In this instance, to provide the best foot cleaning solution to traffic entering from both doorways, Syncros utilised the Milliken Obex Forma matting in a diagonal installation. It's this understanding of a site's variables that influences the decision on the right matting and installation type for the site, which is why it's so important that a supplier carries out a site survey.

As the name suggests, Syncros Entrance Matting Systems specialise in the supply and installation of all types of entrance barrier matting, and the experience gained from supplying and installing entrance matting systems at over 100 shopping centres nationwide, ensures Syncros recommend and install solutions that really are fit for purpose. The comprehensive service includes as standard, site survey, 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 ensure your matting requirements are delivered on time and within budget.

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