



Joint Stabilizers ◦ Sealers ◦ Cleaners ◦ Adhesives

Case Study

Project: Development of the Nationwide Arena District

Location: Columbus, Ohio

Product: SB-1300 Joint Stabilizing Sealer

Surebond, Inc. develops and produces products which protect and maintain paver installations allowing for increased performance and reduced construction costs.

The Challenge

The city of Columbus, Ohio had a deteriorating downtown area. City officials had tried for years to gain approval to raise taxes in order to revitalize the area, a plan which included construction of a new sports arena. Year after year taxpayers voted down plans for revitalization. In 1997, Columbus based Nationwide (a diversified insurance and financial services organization) offered to privately fund the construction of the arena if they could secure a professional sports team to play for the city. The National Hockey League granted Columbus a team and the revitalization process began. The area where the arena was to be built was badly neglected, it was filled with deteriorating buildings and a crumbling abandoned State Penitentiary. Nationwide moved to secure the stadium location and much of the surrounding area for development. Their hopes were to construct the arena and a district surrounding their stadium which would revitalize the downtown while preserving its turn-of-the-century appeal.

The Design

Nationwide needed a plan for building their namesake stadium and for development of the surrounding area. They wanted this development to be incorporated into the surrounding city and to serve as an extension of what already existed. To accomplish this goal they incorporated unique design features which meshed their new district into the existing city-scape of historic Columbus.

The Construction

The architectural elements used to construct Nationwide Arena blended well with the surrounding historic elements of the city. The stadium's interior featured terrazzo floors, brick pillars and marble details, while the surrounding area included brick streets and sidewalks, large trees and inspirational lighting. During the construction process work crews uncovered oversized clay pavers suspected to be the pavers used in the original construction of Columbus' streets. These pavers were cleaned and restored then used to pave the Ludlow Alley portion of the Nationwide District, a pedestrian only area that houses restaurants, clubs and bars.

Brick was used extensively in the construction of the arena and the surrounding areas and was thought to be a unifying factor which helped link this new development to the existing city. Keeping with this theme, a proposal was presented to city officials suggesting the use of brick pavers for the streets in the district. This raised concerns regarding the strength of this surface, which would support heavy traffic, the cost for installing such a pavement, and the lasting durability of this material. The reconditioned pavers used on Ludlow Alley provided assurance that pavers would hold up over time but there were still concerns about the structural integrity of this material when subjected to high traffic volume. A recommendation was made to seal the paving project with Surebond, Inc. SB-1300 Joint Stabilizing Sealer. The SB-1300 product would seal the paving stones, protecting the surface, while stabilizing the joint sand, reinforcing the pavement surface for added durability. The SB-1300 product was tested with superior results, thus approval was given to construct the streets in the Nationwide District using brick pavers sealed with Surebond SB-1300 Joint Stabilizing Sealer. The Surebond SB-1300 product was applied immediately after the pavers were placed; one of the unique qualities of this immediate application product. SB-1300 has an unmatched breathability that does not trap efflorescence. Other similar products require installers to wait several weeks or months before sealing, an option which is prohibitive when installing city streets.

The Performance

The Nationwide Arena District continues to thrive and develop with its unique blend of entertainment, business and residential spaces. The main street, now paved in brick, serves as the pathway bringing a once absent spirit back to this turn-of-the-century town.