

SUPPLY CHAIN

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Oct 2014



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PC Floors SA introduces the all-in-one solution

Meet the family

PC FLOORS SA, part of the RCR Industrial flooring group, introduces the RCR Flooring Products division.

Meet Permaban, Rocland and Rinol, famous worldwide for armoured joints, formwork, dry-shakes and resin coatings.

As sister companies, all owned by RCR, we work as one specialist concrete flooring products team.

Along with Bekaert, the undisputed leader in Dramix steel fibres, working as our strategic partner. You can be sure your flooring specification will work together just as well as we do.

RCR Flooring Products.

We're the family name to remember.



www.rcrindustrialflooring.com



The aim is to get warehouse flooring as flat as possible as this enhances operations significantly.

Fundamentally Flat

The importance of flooring in warehousing is catching on in South Africa where it has far too often been ignored. "Supply Chain Today" speaks to Adrianus Huijskens, managing director of PC Floors.



Adrianus Huijskens, managing director of PC Floors

A flat floor matters, says Adrianus. The safety of the facility, the movement of workers and equipment, and the speed at which it all operates depends on a flat and sturdy floor, hence the decision by the RCR Group, to enter the local market through PC Floors.

RCR manufactures the products needed to lay a highly efficient and durable floor through a system that reduces the number of joints in the floor. "In fact, the floors we build are jointless fibre-reinforced requiring less maintenance and are often more durable and environmentally friendly. Where there is a need for a joint, we use high quality leave-in-place armoured joints."

Adrianus explains how this is fundamentally different from the South African way of laying a floor. "Locally, floors are cut four by four metres which means there are more joints and as a result, more problems. There is also very little reinforcement of the concrete and so, in the long term, it cracks when used heavily which means more maintenance and ultimately, more cost."

Having just installed an 80 000 square metre distribution centre for a major logistics company, Adrianus says there is no denying the importance of a good floor. "The fact is that the days of a few bags of concrete thrown as a screed, that will suffice as a floor, is just no longer good enough. Customers need longevity while they operate with no interruptions for repair and maintenance on guaranteed flooring."

Many benefits

Several other benefits come into play too. "Operations are more efficient as equipment moves easier and at faster speeds, while downtime and maintenance of equipment is decreased as there is less impact and damage due to poor surfaces," he explains.



Gone are the days of concrete flooring – more and more companies are opting for coloured floors for their warehouses

At least 70% of the floors in Europe are coloured, while in South Africa there is a tendency towards dark grey floors

The advantages of a good floor have been reinforced locally as space has become an issue. "The trend towards stacking more and more vertically means that very high racks need very flat floors. A deviation of just 3mm on the floor could see a forklift rock which could be catastrophic."

According to Adrianus, floors could be considered the most important element of a warehouse. "We believe that all industrial floors should be reinforced with steel fibres which significantly improves the load bearing of the floor regardless of where the loads are placed or where stresses occur. It's also more durable and so there is optimal control of even the smallest of cracks in a concrete floor."

"The reality is that a cheap installation has long term affects that could be far more expensive than a properly designed and installed floor. Unlike fixing the walls or roof of a warehouse, to redesign and reinstall a floor is costly, so it's eminently advisable to start off as you mean to end off."

Multi-purpose

It's also important to understand that there's no one-size-fits-all solution. "A standard floor is not going to work in every warehouse. It is therefore very important to understand what the floor will be used for and whether a regular industrial floor will suffice or if a customised design is necessary."

Aspects such as the load requirements, the rack loads, high or standard racking, all play a role. Multi-functionality is just as important, says Adrianus. "Be it a harbour wall floor or that of a manufacturing plant or a general goods distribution centre – every floor is tailor-made even when it is intended to be multifunctional."

FLOORING



Light coloured flooring is the latest trend for warehouses as it is seen as being energy efficient

The reality is that a cheap installation has long term affects that could be far more expensive than a properly designed and installed floor

And believe it or not, floors can be energy efficient too. "At least 70% of the floors in Europe are coloured, while in South Africa there is a tendency towards dark grey floors. Coloured floors have some very real benefits as you use

less electricity as light is reflected off the floor," Adrianus concludes. "A lighter floor that has a lifetime span and is more durable with less maintenance, is the way to go."

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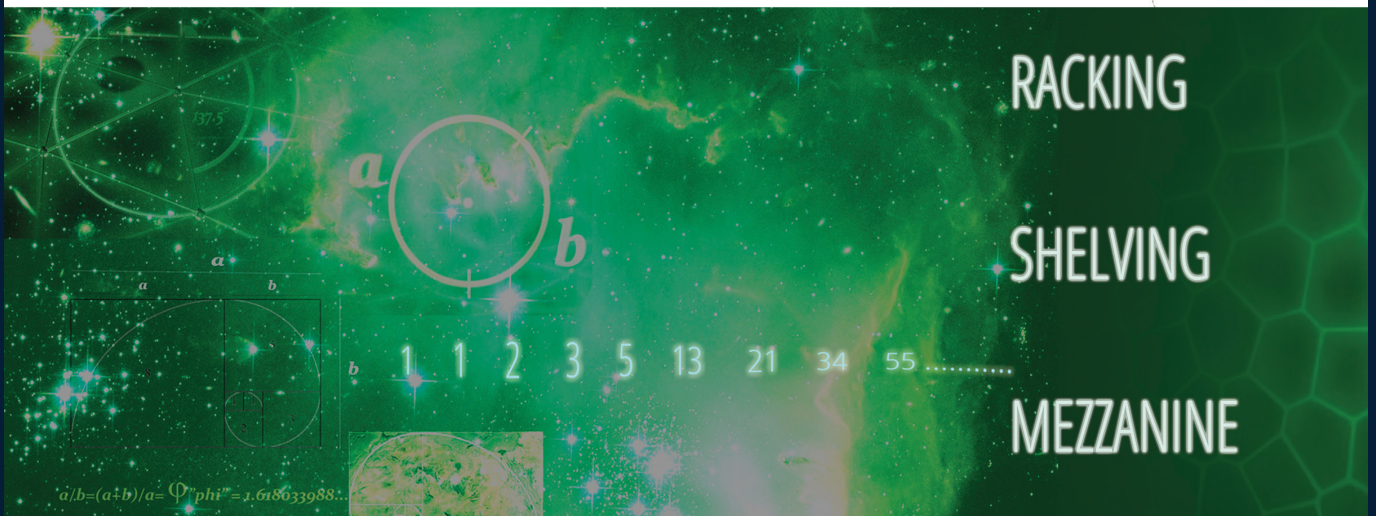
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