

Case Study

Warrington Wolves

Shell Mexphalte C - Gone are the days of boring black-mastic asphalt flooring can now be produced in all the colours of the rainbow, as rugby club Warrington Wolves 'new stadium shows



Pick a colour, any colour and you can now see it reproduced in mastic asphalt paving or flooring. The use of a new harder grade of Mexphalte C pigmentable bitumen binder from Shell bitumen has propelled the mastic asphalt colour chart into orbit – way beyond the black and dense reds and greens that have dominated for decades.

Mastic asphalt manufacturer and contractor Pure Asphalt of Bolton has proved the colour subtlety and design complexity that is now achievable with its stunning work at the new Halliwell Jones Stadium, home to the Warrington Wolves Rugby League side.

Warrington Wolves turn to Shell Mexphalte C to match club colours

Critical Success Factors:	- Ability to custom-process a coloured range to match club colours - Slip resistant surface
Application:	- a coloured range of waterproof and hard-wearing pavement and flooring grades of mastic asphalt
Volume:	200m ² of coloured mastic asphalt
Product family:	Mastic Asphalt
Product grade:	Shell Mexphalte C
Client:	Warrington Wolves Rugby League
Contractor:	Pure Asphalt



Shell Bitumen

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Ted Holder, managing director of Pure Asphalt, explains: "The stadium concourses are floored in concrete and trafficked by more than 10,000 people at each fixture. The club wanted to use the space under the north stand as a community play wall with interactive electronic games. The floor and entrance areas needed an attractive rainbow effect design, plus the Wolves' primrose and blue playing colours."

“ Our only regret is that we didn't know about coloured asphalt with Shell Mexphalte C when the stadium was built – or we'd have used it everywhere ”

Sean Mellor, Community & Marketing Manager

Pure Asphalt saw this as an excellent opportunity to use subtle pigments with Shell's Mexphalte C Bitumen binder to custom-process a coloured range of hard wearing and waterproof paving and flooring grades of mastic asphalt. "We had to match shades very accurately and provide materials that our highly skilled teams could craft-install by hand in intricate designs, such as giant wolf paw prints and rain bow curves," says Holder. As the play wall is aimed at children, the floor had to be flat with a slip-resistant surface. This meant chasing the mastic asphalt into the concrete. For the sloping concourse at the entrance, the mastic asphalt was laid on the

Value for money

Sean Mellor, community and marketing manager of Warrington Wolves, says the club was pleased the coloured flooring was not too expensive: "The cost of this wonderfully vibrant flooring is not very different to boring grey concrete. Our only regret is we didn't know about it when the stadium was being built or we'd have used it everywhere!"

For this project, Pure Asphalt processed Shell Mexphalte C in eight different shades. More than a 200m² of coloured mastic asphalt was installed, with 25mm flooring grade III to BS6925: 1988 used internally, and 25mm footpath grade to BS1447: 1988 for the external concourse area. Site work took only three days, but four different mastic asphalt mixers were needed to produce the complex shades. Asada Harinsuit, global vice president of Shell Bitumen, said when he inspected the work: "We are proud of our mastic asphalt partners Pure Asphalt. They have done an impressive job here at Warrington."

New design possibilities

Coloured mastic asphalt benefits from all the properties of the traditional black material and is particularly useful for safety applications, such as bus lanes, cycle lanes, intersections and pedestrian crossings. A colour change in the road surface provides a quick and clear indication of changing conditions and has a greater impact than a multitude of signs and signals.

Coloured mastic asphalts also score heavily in improving the aesthetics of sports and leisure centres, shopping malls, hospitals, schools and urban areas generally. And the coloured solution is ideal for heritage sites, where mastic asphalt can be made to blend with its surroundings. A further advantage is that small quantities of a single colour can be laid as an inset design on another background colour. In fact, the uses of coloured mastic asphalt are limited only by the designer's imagination.

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Asada Harinsuit, VP Shell Bitumen

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