

Mastic Removal Made Easy

BEAN-e-doo® Does It All for U.S. Postal Service Including Saving Big Dollars



The U.S. Postal Service's Jim Hennessey found that a soy-based mastic remover saves him 300 percent since the product's environmental and performance qualities allow USPS to remove cove base without the services of outside remediation firms that specialize in removing materials containing asbestos.

When the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) discovered, tested and began using the mastic remover with the catchy name, BEAN-e-doo®, its primary reasons were that it was safe to use and it worked very well. But it has also turned into a big money saver.

“This product removes mastic, which often contains asbestos. If it didn't work, we'd have to contract with outside remediation firms that specialize in removing materials containing asbestos. The cost for us to do it is sixty cents a square foot. The cost for an outside contractor to do it is \$1.76 per square foot—that's a savings of almost 300 percent. In addition, we are now using it to remove floor tiles, too. Just here in our Northeast Region (New England and New York, except New York City) that adds up to big money because we estimate about 40,000 cases per year,” states James Hennessey, USPS Albany District Environmental Coordinator.

The story started back in 2000 when USPS Manager of Environmental Compliance for the Northeast Area, Charles Vidich, who oversees asbestos removal efforts throughout Northeast Region, heard about BEAN-e-doo® from a representative of Franmar Chemical, Inc. “A lot of mastic removers that we tried had strong fumes.

After a series of tests in Upstate New York, we made the decision that this product was going to do the trick for us,” Hennessey said.

Vidich works to reduce employee exposure to hazards, but he also stresses that a product must meet performance standards before it can be approved. Hennessey shares this concern, “Usually, we don't find just one product that works because there are many options.” Hennessey said. “But nothing worked as well as BEAN-e-doo®. It was easy to use and environmentally friendly, and it's the only mastic remover we recommend.”

Hennessey helped test the product in multiple Postal facilities and in various rooms, ranging from a supervisor's office to a boiler room to a front lobby. He worked with subcontractor Roy Weston to follow standard procedures and conduct initial negative exposure tests that require the use of a respirator. BEAN-e-doo® passed those evaluations, and he began in-house tests that are conducted without respirators. Based on



Cove-base along walls can release asbestos when it is removed. The U.S. Postal Service uses BEAN-e-doo® for cove base and floor tile removal.

several months of analysis, BEAN-e-doo® gained approval for Class Three asbestos removal (which means USPS employees can use the product without a respirator) because it is biodegradable, contains no volatile organic compounds, has a mild odor and is user friendly.

FACT FILE

For more information about USPS use of a biobased product for mastic removal, Jim Hennessey, Environmental Coordinator for the USPS Albany District can be reached at 518-452-4012 phone or jhennessey@email.usps.gov

BEAN-e-doo® is one of many biobased products manufactured by Franmar Chemical, Inc. in Normal, Illinois. For more than 16 years, Franmar has worked to turn soybean oil into a numerous environmentally friendly products, ranging from lead-based paint removers to hand lotions. More information is available at www.franmar.com or by calling 309-862-1005.

America's farmers are just beginning to tap agriculture's potential as a source for natural, renewable biobased products that offer benefits to worker health, the environment, America's economy and energy security. To learn more about the many biobased products made from soybeans like the one used by USPS, go to the Biobased Products Catalog at www.unitedsoybean.org

Because of the potential for biobased products to create new markets for soybeans, U.S. soybean farmers have invested more than \$50 million to research, test and promote biobased products. Much of this work was done through the United Soybean Board (USB), which is composed of 62 U.S. soybean farmers appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to invest soybean checkoff funds.



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