



**“WE’RE REPLACING
ALL OF OUR
RENTAL MATS
WITH PIG GRIPPY
FLOOR MAT.”**

— General Cable, Altoona, PA



Customized solutions including PIG Grippy Floor Mat increase safety in slippery work cells.

General Cable is the leader in the development, production and distribution of aluminum, copper and fiber-optic wire and cable products for energy, industrial and communications applications.

At the Altoona, Pa, plant, where they turned out over 200,000 OEM and aftermarket ignition wire sets a week, lubricant from the equipment created dangerously slippery conditions in work cells. So when associates dealing with slick floors spoke up about their safety concerns, supervisors teamed up with them to find solutions.

Dealing with a slippery situation.

“Because we’re taking a number of components and trying to get them to slide over the top of a terminal and onto a wire, we need to use lubricant to make the assembly easier,” explained Cell Coordinator/Standard Team Leader Bill Whalen. “Our associates were working on the concrete with all of that lubricant on the floor. They had to be conscious about where and how they were moving every second of the day.”

“We installed nonslip tile in the cells but we didn’t have anything for the associates to step on when they came out of their work

areas,” added Lisa Smith, Cell Coordinator II/Team Leader. “They would track lube all over the floor, and you could see it getting slippery. That’s when we put down the rental mats.”

Rental mats seemed like a good option, but they created problems for associates who moved heavy louver carts in and out of their cells.

“They would bunch up under the wheels,” said Bill. “After a week, they’d get so saturated that you’d still slide. We knew we needed to find something different. That’s when we got involved with New Pig.”

New Pig had been supplying the General Cable Altoona Plant with absorbents such as socks and mats for several years, so when account rep Leah Sheffer heard about the problem with the rental mats, she recommended replacing them with PIG Grippy Floor Mat. Adhesive-backed Grippy Floor Mat sticks and stays put while it absorbs oily residue and other liquids — and it won’t



Moving heavy louver carts over bunched-up rental mats was a pain.

Continued on back



Carts roll right over PIG Grippy Floor Mat.

bunch up under carts like rental mats.

To find out if PIG Grippy Floor Mat would stand up to constant foot and cart traffic, General Cable tested it in front of their oily work cells.

PIG Grippy Floor Mat not only absorbed the lube from associates' shoes and stopped it from being tracked around, it stayed in place under the heavy louver carts. And because PIG Grippy Floor Mat is super-durable, it stayed on the job for weeks at a time — even in their oily environment. Fewer changeouts lowered costs and improved efficiency without sacrificing employee safety.

"PIG Grippy Floor Mat doesn't bunch up like the rental mats, and it absorbs a lot better," Bill related. "We've had nothing but positive feedback on it."

Reducing fatigue increases productivity.

Replacing rental mats with PIG Grippy Floor Mat was one piece of the puzzle. Finding the right nonslip tile for work cells was another. Their current tile provided traction, but that's all it did.

"I called Leah because we got complaints from our associates about the nonslip tile not lasting very long and being difficult to stand on — hurting their back and legs," recalled EH&S Coordinator Steve Clinton. "And the mineral oil overspray on the tile caused the soles of their shoes to wear out quickly. That was a major issue. So we wanted to find a different kind of tile that would meet our ergonomic needs."

With help from Leah and New Pig, the team at General Cable set out to discover exactly what was causing the tile to break down. New Pig consulted with chemists from several of their tile

manufacturers to find out what products were compatible with mineral oil and then provided samples for volunteers to test in their work cells.

"We told our associates that we wanted to find what fits best and lasts the longest in the cells. We took into account the wear on their shoes and how they felt physically after working on it during their shift," said Steve. "Then once we had the data, we would pick the best tile to use throughout the plant. There was a lot of trial and error, but our associates knew it would take time to get everything right, and they were willing to work with us."

Finding the best balance of traction, anti-fatigue properties and absorbency took months of testing, but the associates tried out combination after combination and gave the team feedback on each one. The result of their hard work and persistence was a unique floor system.

Cells with louver carts were equipped with a modular nonslip tile mat in the center and an anti-fatigue mat around the perimeter. Cells without carts used only the anti-fatigue mat. A layer of heavyweight Pig Blue Absorbent Mat was installed under the entire area to absorb oily drips and overspray, and PIG Grippy Floor Mat was placed across the cell entrance to absorb oily residue before it was tracked into walkways. Associates with carts could easily move in and out of their cells, and everyone could work comfortably throughout their shift.

"Thanks to these products from New Pig, people moved around more freely knowing they were safe," said Bill. "Because they felt a lot more confident, they could move a lot faster and produce more efficiently."



The cell flooring system combined (1) PIG Grippy Floor Mat, (2) modular nonslip tile, and (3) anti-fatigue mat. A layer of Pig Blue Absorbent Mat underneath soaks up mineral oil that seeps through the holes in the tile.

PIG Grippy Mat is available from New Pig and our fine distribution partners. Visit www.grippymat.com or call to learn more.



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