

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH SWITCHES TO WATER-BASED COATING

Seagrave Coatings's Armorguard™ System reduces VOCs

The University of Utah is a public research university in Salt Lake City. The university was established in 1850 as the University of Deseret by the General Assembly of the provisional State of Deseret, making it Utah's oldest institution of higher education. It received its

conscious with one area of focus on reducing and controlling chemicals and solvents used in laboratories, shops, etc.

Surface Tech, a small Salt Lake City owner-operator based kitchen and bathroom remodeling company that

been doing an average of 15 or more a month depending on move-outs.

The process begins with sanding down the tub's rough spots, filling in cracks, mask it off, make repairs and make sure it's clean before applying the spray coating.

The Challenge

Since 2014 the University has been environmentally conscious with one area of focus on reducing and controlling chemicals and solvents used in laboratories, shops, etc.

The Solution

Ken Relei, a supervisor at the university, came across Armorguard™ from Seagrave Coatings at a trade show and learned that the product is water based and non-toxic.



current name in 1892, four years before Utah attained statehood, and moved to its current location in 1900.

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has been in business since 1992, has been resurfacing fiberglass bathtubs in student housing units since December 2018. Mark Butler, a company foreman and technician, says Surface Tech has

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SEAGRAVE COATINGS CORPORATION

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Previously, the process included the use of a urethane-based coating that is odorous and toxic. Surface Tech had to give three-days notice because students at the university were complaining about the smell. “We could have lost that account,” Butler said.

However, Ken Relei, a supervisor at the university, came across Armorguard™ from Seagrave Coatings at a trade show and learned that the product is water-based and non-toxic. To align with the University’s sustainability goal of controlling solvents being used, Relei instructed Surface Tech to use the Armorguard product.

“The biggest difference is smell,” Butler said. “Armorguard is not nearly as strong. Urethane is odorous and has toxicity that the water-based product doesn’t. With the urethane coating, you definitely feel the smell. It makes you feel ‘foggy.’ People with breathing issues would have a problem

with it.”

“It’s a really good product,” Butler said. “It has good adhesion and is a great product. It will extend the

“Seagrave solves a huge problem for us,” Butler continued. “Another benefit is that we don’t use nearly as much industrial cleaners with the lacquer gun. It helps the environment and our waste is down.

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Utah receives an “A” for going to the head of the class. A is for Armorguard, a green alternative that does not cause odor and is a non-flammable and sustainable solution since refinishing – rather than replacement – avoids unnecessary landfill.

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