

▶ IMPROVING SAFETY AND INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY

LINDSAY SMITH, MARKETING MANAGER, CROWN MATTING TECHNOLOGIES

Crown Matting Technologies is a world-class manufacturer dedicated to providing the highest quality matting solutions to improve the safety, cleanliness and comfort in the facilities of our hardworking customers.

Floor matting systems are an essential part of a facility safety program, help reduce maintenance costs and increase employee comfort and productivity. Properly fitting a building's entrances with matting solutions will help eliminate potential slip, trip and fall accidents. Entrance matting can eliminate the introduction of bacteria and viruses into your facility, which is particularly critical in today's pandemic environment. Suitably fitted matting also decreases damage to floor finish, increasing the longevity of the finish by 50 percent for the first 6 feet of the entrance way.

For daily use, anti-fatigue matting systems are proven to increase worker productivity while reducing the number of workers' comp claims and absenteeism. Crown's

patented Zedlan anti-fatigue mats provide three times more resilience than other premium ergonomic support. The foam diffuses the pressure caused by reduced blood flow to the lower legs, which can result in bone misalignment and joint degeneration. Muscle pain and tension can spread throughout the back, neck and shoulders. Alleviating this stress increases employee comfort and results in higher efficiency, concentration and improved morale.

In a third-party study, an operation fitted with Crown anti-fatigue mats showed clear evidence over a 12-month period that the installation of anti-fatigue mats resulted in an estimated 2.2 percent productivity increase.

As more people return to the physical workplace, employee safety, health and efficiency is of the utmost importance to employers. Crown Matting Technologies is dedicated to supporting companies in achieving their safety and productivity goals.



SMITH

▶ PREMIUM PPE FOSTERS MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

MARY PADRON, SR. MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS AND EVENT SPECIALIST, RADIANS

To prevent worker injury and avoid costly government fines and litigation, the safety industry has primarily focused on the physical and the compliance aspects of PPE.

However, the Safety Week 2021 theme of "holistic safety and well-being" will create a renewed focus on the mental health and well-being of workers, which means premium PPE products could play a bigger role in the future. Why? Premium safety products not only meet or exceed standards and specifications, but they are thoughtfully engineered for comfort, fit, style, performance and durability, all of which contribute to a worker's positive mindset and improved mental health.

If workers are comfortable and like how they look wearing their PPE, their attitude and energy improves, positively impacting their well-being.

Uncomfortable and inadequate PPE can lead to worker stress, anxiety, non-compliance and distraction.

Unfortunately, specifying premium PPE is often quickly rejected or dismissed in favor of less expensive PPE. Distributors can overcome price objections by promoting the long-term cost savings and the mental health advantages of high-end PPE.

HOLISTIC SAFETY

As holistic, self-care and well-being trends grow in popularity, the workplace should also change, reimagine safety programs and rethink the mindset about premium PPE. Here are four good reasons why premium PPE is a good investment.

1. More trust because premium PPE has been tested and certified to meet the standards unlike substandard or fraudulent PPE, which is

cheaper yet often does not perform to the stated levels of protection.

2. More cost savings and cost avoidance over the long term for employers because of longer product lifecycles, increased compliance and fewer injuries.

3. More workplace productivity because workers with high well-being are more engaged than distracted or stressed workers wearing substandard PPE.

4. More positive, dedicated and happy workers who contribute to their individual success and the success of the company.

Good mental health enables us to thrive at work, and so does premium PPE. They're both part of the holistic safety trend.



PADRON

▶ RETHINKING RESPIRATOR PROTECTION

CLAUDIO DENTE, PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, DENTEC SAFETY SPECIALISTS

It's a cliché – “Necessity is the mother of invention” – but it describes Dentec’s response to crisis. When COVID-19 broke out in January of last year, China cut off Dentec’s supply of N95 disposable respirators. The challenge: to help workers continue to work using respiratory protection when needed, while allowing frontline health-care employees access to disposable respirators where emergency demand was huge.

ALTERNATIVE TO N95 DISPOSABLES

Dentec sought out alternative solutions for industrial workers to replace N95 disposable respirators. People misuse disposable respirators. Even someone who is fairly responsible will go through two or three disposable respirators a day.

BIG COST SAVINGS

Dentec Safety developed its alternative solution to disposable respirators: the half mask with N95 filters. We have a more economical and more productive solution.

Remember, the cost of disposable respirators has gone up in the past year by four to 10 times. We are able to maintain the same cost.

Dentec is ramping up production at our Lenexa, Kansas, factory. We have more staff and we’ve gone to six- and seven-day work weeks. We’ve expanded the molding operations and have ordered more molds – all to make product faster for North American markets.

The reusable N95 Nx (now without an exhalation valve) is replacing the disposable.

Demand for alternative N95 reusable respirator (now without an exhalation valve) will likely continue into 2022. It’s more comfortable, safer and more economical.

It’s sad and unfortunate, but it took the pandemic to rethink N95 respiratory protection and move it forward.



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