



Fraser Valley Gets Greener with New Hospital

The city of Abbotsford, British Columbia lies southeast of Vancouver in the center of Fraser Valley, home to rolling hills and lush green farmland. Everything in Abbotsford exemplifies environmental responsibility, including the new Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre currently under construction. The \$355-million project, which will gain LEED certification upon completion, involves important green-building characteristics:

- Carpet, paints and adhesives that contain low amounts of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can impact people's health
- Wood-based products that are either 100 percent recycled or certified by the Forest Stewardship Council
- Natural light from large windows with views
- Rooftop gardens and courtyards
- Energy efficiency with annual savings of 30 percent

Because LEED projects require the use of certified materials, Maxwell Floors of Surrey, B.C., used MAPEI's *Ultrabond ECO*[®] 350 to install nearly 450,000 square feet (41 806 m²) of vinyl flooring and wall covering in the hospital. *Ultrabond ECO 350* was developed with MAPEI's "green innovation" technology and is LEED-compliant, helping to contribute valuable points toward LEED-certified projects.

Maxwell Floors was given a very short time frame to complete this very large project, so the installation crew wanted an adhesive that allowed for rapid installation of large sheets of vinyl. *Ultrabond ECO 350* is a superior adhesive formulated with a MAPEI proprietary acrylic polymer. It offers the unique flexibility of installing floor coverings after a short flash time (as soon as the

adhesive exhibits pressure-sensitive characteristics). This universal adhesive has extensive compatibility characteristics with floor coverings and offers superior performance on high-end commercial installations. It will never stain vinyl flooring.

After patching surface imperfections with MAPEI's *Planipatch*[®]/*Planipatch Plus*[™] system, the installation team, under the supervision of project manager Rick Wagner, used *Ultrabond ECO 350* to install Armstrong sheet vinyl over the concrete substrate. The installers used techniques designed for installing small pieces of vinyl to give a smooth look to the large vinyl sheets. They started by dry-laying the pieces, making reference marks, and then rolling the sheet up and removing it completely. Next, they applied the *Ultrabond ECO 350* to the entire area, using the appropriate trowel.

By using *Ultrabond ECO 350*, the installers were able to apply the adhesive to large areas while still respecting the open time. As soon as the adhesive became pressure-sensitive, the team put on golf shoes so they could walk on the glue without contaminating it. They lined up the vinyl sheets with the reference marks they had made earlier and rolled out the large sheets to finish the installation. A roller was used to flatten the trowel ridges of the installation. The rolling ensured that a proper bond was achieved and that no ridges showed through the vinyl sheet goods material once it was polished.

Maxwell Floors also used *Ultrabond ECO 350* universal adhesive to install the Tarkett Wallguard vinyl wall material. Because of the adhesive's pressure-sensitive characteristics, they could line up the wall material with their reference marks and start installing quickly, without any concerns that the sheets would slide down or out of place, as would result with a wet glue application.

The installers used MAPEI's *Ultrabond ECO 800* to install the wall base where the floors and walls met. Installers usually install this material with a contact adhesive, which requires both surfaces to be coated. By using *Ultrabond ECO 800*, which is pressure-sensitive, the workers only had to apply it to one surface before adhering the wall base to the wall/floor surface. This technique saved the team more time, which helped Maxwell Floors deliver the project according to the shortened timeline.

In each of the bathrooms in the hospital, Maxwell Floors installed Ultro Safety PVC flooring in the shower areas, using *Ultrabond G21*. A solvent-free, two-part reactive adhesive designed for extreme indoor and outdoor installations, *Ultrabond G21* is the ultimate problem solver and an excellent adhesive for use with homogeneous PVC.

Environmental health and safety have always been driving factors in MAPEI's technological leadership in floor-covering installation systems. All of MAPEI's *Ultrabond ECO* products are low in VOCs, eco-friendly and solvent-free, making them an excellent choice for projects that are built green. When the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre opens in 2008, patients, visitors and staff will be walking on surfaces with a base as "green" as Fraser Valley.