

MAPEI TECHNOLOGY KEEPS MICROSOFT PLATFORM DRY

Building 20 on the Microsoft campus in Redmond, Washington, currently houses hardware platforms. Hardware platforms are similar to the foundation of a building; all the other components of the structure must rest on a sound platform. At Building 20, the foundation was causing a problem. MAPEI technology came to the rescue with *Planiseal™ MRB* moisture-reduction barrier.

The one-story structure is built into a hillside, and rainwater seeps into the foundation's concrete slab. The parking lot also has a slight grade, which causes water to drain toward the building. These circumstances led to high moisture-emission levels from the slab, which had been covered with carpet tile and vinyl composition tile (VCT). Levels reached 6 to 8 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. (2.72 to 3.63 kg per 92,9 m²) per 24 hours in some areas, and over 12 lbs. (5,44 kg) in one particularly "wet" area, as shown by the calcium chloride test. DeWalt Commercial, the general contractor in charge of remodeling Building 20, selected Division 9 Inc. of Redmond to solve the floor-covering problem.

Division 9's Chuck Young took up the challenge and consulted with Dave Egge of the Systematic Company in Tukwila, Washington. Systematic, a MAPEI distributor, had recently sent out invitations to a MAPEI seminar, and Egge discussed the use of *Planiseal MRB* with Young, encouraging him to attend the seminar to learn more. After hearing MAPEI representative Tom Lundgren speak on the subject, Young approached him with his concerns about Building 20.

Dave Hamilton, MAPEI regional manager, was present to oversee the work done with MAPEI's products. First, the workers covered the 25,000-plus square feet of offices and workspace with *Planiseal MRB* moisture-reduction barrier. They even opened cracked spaces in the substrate and coated them with *MRB*. Next, they patched voids and uneven areas with the *Planipatch® Plus* System. The second set of moisture level tests conducted in 3 different areas presenting the greatest problem showed values of 0.84 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. (0,38 kg per 92,9 m²) per 24 hours.

With the moisture levels well within the proper range 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. (1,36 kg per 92,9 m²) per 24 hours, Chuck Young's crew laid down Interface carpet tile with *Ultrabond ECO™ 800* pressure-sensitive flooring adhesive. They used *Ultrabond ECO 711* to lay the Mannington Essentials and Armstrong Imperial Textures VCT. Young commented, "Everything is staying down well after the remodeling. This was our first time to use MAPEI products, and we were pleasantly surprised with the ease of application of the *Planiseal MRB* and the greatly reduced moisture levels we achieved."

Dave Egge of Systematic was so pleased with the results attained at Microsoft Building 20 that he has recommended the use of *Planiseal MRB* to other customers in the area who have similar problems. He hopes to report more successes soon. The Microsoft platforms have been moved into Building 20, and at the last report were “high and dry.”