

Text for PCC Organic Grocery HPP Story –

MAPEI Gives Flawless Presentation at PCC Organic Grocery

At Puget Consumers Co-op (PCC) Natural Market in Fremont, Washington, presentation is everything – from the produce to the baked goods to the very floor of the store. While the store was under construction, it began to look like the floor would be anything but flawless until Mike Jackson of Gyptech came up with the perfect solution – MAPEI surface preparation and decorative concrete topping products.

Jackson was pumping gypsum at the site to fulfill another contract when he noticed that the contractor, Tom Perrault of RAFN, was having a problem with a post-tensioned concrete slab. Cables in the slab kept it in constant motion, creating a challenge for installers trying to bond to a moving substrate. Jackson suggested a solution -- MAPEI's *Planibond™ EBA* epoxy bonding agent and primer. With help from MAPEI technical sales representative Tom Lundgren and experience gained from MAPEI training, Jackson was able to produce a mockup in a small area of the store's lunchroom. The mockup convinced the contractor and the owner's representative that *Planibond EBA* would work.

The next big challenge the PCC project presented involved the coloring of the decorative topping. Acid staining produced color inconsistencies and blotchiness that PCC found unacceptable. When the floor was scratched, repairs couldn't be made because the color from the staining was only surface-deep. MAPEI and Jackson introduced the concept of *Ultratop™* self-leveling concrete topping that could be mixed with customized pigments to produce integral coloring that went as deep as the topping itself.

After forms were constructed to architect George Ostrow's design plan, the *Ultratop* was pumped onto the floor in broad color bands coordinated to specific areas of the store layout. This first pour created a seamless floor that bonded strongly to the *Planitop EBA*. After the initial pour, the forms were infilled by hand; and medallions bearing noteworthy food proverbs were set in position. In a final step, a penetrating clear sealer was used that locked into the *Ultratop* to form a flawless presentation.

PCC is the largest natural food cooperative in the United States and has more than 40,000 members who shop at the co-op's seven neighborhood stores in the Puget Sound region. The organic grocery stores are open to nonmembers as well and are very popular in the area. PCC is

as committed to bringing high-quality foods to its customers as it is to providing them with an attractive, eclectic atmosphere to shop in.

Mike Jackson was happy to help the contractor solve a problem, and PCC was thrilled with the outcome. Jackson said, "We all learned a lot from using MAPEI's products. By using the right bonding agent and primer, we got the floor we all wanted from the *Ultratop* application. The deep colors in the concrete say it all!"