

CASE STUDY: Astins – Replacing Plastic Mastic Tubes

Established in 1996, Astins is now one of the largest drywall specialist contractors in the UK, and delivers quality services to main contractors, owner clients and architects in the UK and internationally.

Astins always aims for continued improvement and sustainable construction. With this in mind, Astins has been successfully engaged with its client, Multiplex, at the Principal Tower site in East London, to enhance and better protect the environment.

Using Foil Mastic Tubes

Research has found that an average 34% of construction waste is packaging waste, of which plastic is a key contributor. In response to this issue, Astins has developed a more sustainable and economic solution, by replacing its mastic packaging from plastic tubes to foil tubes, with the specific purpose of reducing single-use plastic waste and the volume of packaging waste produced on site.

Although the unit price for foil packaging is slightly higher than plastic packaged mastic, when accounting for the whole lifecycle cost, such as the disposal of waste, the overall cost is significantly lower. In addition, carbon emissions are reduced during the transportation and waste removal of the mastic product, due to the foil being much lighter in weight compared with plastic.



In real terms, changing to foil mastic packaging has resulted in Astins eliminating the consumption of single-use plastics and packaging. By the end of the project, Astins will have saved over 9,290 tubes and reduced the volume of packaging waste produced by 96%.

This initiative is striving to tackle plastic pollution, reduce waste and promote the use of smarter packaging materials within the construction industry. Astins now aims to exclusively use 100% foil-packaging acoustic mastic instead of traditional plastic tubes by 2019 to avoid the consumption of plastics and packaging, and to help the construction industry move

towards more sustainable practices. Astins hopes that over the next few years, using foil tubes will become the new industry standard.

Raising Awareness

Alongside reducing plastic waste, Astins delivers environmental training to all site managers and supervisors to educate them about the environmental risks associated with plastic pollution and the importance of protecting the environment. In addition, Astins delivers a series of toolbox talks to the workforce to raise awareness about sustainability in the construction industry.

To prove its dedication to preserving the environment, Astins is a Gold member of the Supply Chain Sustainability School, where they actively participate and constantly improve their performance record to deliver sustainable solutions to clients.

To find out more about Astins, please click [here](#) to visit their website.