



MOLYKOTE
FROM DOW CORNING

Molykote® brand grease meets vibration challenge

Smart Lubrication™

CASE HISTORY

Customer

Strescon Industries

Location

Odenton, Maryland

Problem

Vibrators used to de-air concrete were shaking off grease, causing premature bearing failure

Product Selected

Molykote® BR2-Plus Multi-Purpose E.P. Grease

Strescon Industries needed a grease that could hold on.

The company makes a precast hollow-core concrete roofing/flooring plank system with the trade name Flexicore™. The system is used in hotels, motels, schools, prisons and other commercial construction. The planks are manufactured by pouring concrete into forms 54 feet long, 2 feet wide and 8 inches thick. Each form sits on four pedestal vibrators about 2 feet tall. Once a form is filled, the vibrators, powered by 15 HP motors, start up and shake the form for 4 minutes until all the air is removed and the concrete is consolidated.

The problem was, the air wasn't the only thing being removed. Every time the vibrators started up, they threw off grease needed to lubricate the bearings. This caused excessive wear and premature bearing failures. Then operations had to stop while the bearings were replaced.

Plant Superintendent George D. Butler called his local Dow Corning distributor looking for a grease that would hold on. They recommended Molykote® BR2-Plus Multi-Purpose E.P. Grease.

Molykote BR2-Plus is a lithium-soap grease containing an optimum percentage of solid lubricants, including molybdenum disulfide (MoS_2), in combination with other highly effective extreme-pressure additives. It performs equally well under high loads at high speeds or low speeds and with reciprocating motion. This suits it particularly well for the vibrating motion of the Strescon machinery.

The Strescon application also imposes heavy loads on the gear box and bearings. Molykote BR2-Plus is formulated to perform under heavy loads, reducing the coefficient of friction and metal-to-metal contact, minimizing wear and improving running-in conditions. Under load, a boundary lubricating film containing MoS_2 is deposited from the grease to the sliding surfaces so that emergency lubrication is available. Unlike the previous material used by Strescon, Molykote BR2-Plus holds on, which results in bearings that last longer.



A Strescon worker cuts the end of a prestressing strand from a precast hollow-core plank. The plank is formed by pouring concrete into a form and vibrating it to consolidate the concrete. The vibrator is lubricated with Molykote® BR2-Plus Multi-Purpose E.P. Grease.

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The vibrators at Strescon run for 4 out of every 8 minutes and are greased every day. The company uses a 120-lb keg of the material every month. Strescon enjoys significant cost savings since switching to the *Molykote*[®] brand grease. Why? Butler estimates that bearing life is extended an astonishing 600%. *Molykote* BR2-Plus truly adds value and generates savings by reducing bearing costs and downtime required for bearing replacement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For product information or for a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), contact your Dow Corning representative, or call the Dow Corning Technical Service Department at 1-800-435-7561.

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