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# WRAP-AROUND BLADE LINERS PROVIDE SUPERIOR WEAR RESISTANCE AND LONGER LIFE



*Durex wrap-around blade liners are installed in combination with Durex drum liners on a Ross mixer*

Preventing blade wear is essential to the production of a quality concrete mix. A report issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology indicates that wear and build-up will change the geometry of the mixer and the flow pattern of the concrete. As such, the study stresses that when purchasing a mixer, one should evaluate its sensitivity to blade wear, as well as its ease of cleaning, and the cost and difficulty of replacing components and wear parts.

While the installation of blade liners is typically an option in the purchase of a mixer – blade liner use should not be optional. One could argue that any blade liner is better than no liner at all; however, choosing the right blade liner for your application is obviously the best solution. While steel liners have long been the traditional choice, today's trend is a longer wearing urethane product.



*A Durex wrap-around blade liner on a Rex blade shows little wear after 2.5 years of mixing performance*

A new, yet field-proven choice is the Dur-X-Line® Urethane Wrap-Around Blade Liner, introduced by Durex Products. As the name suggests, this urethane liner literally wraps around the edge of the blade to provide superior blade wear prevention. Importantly, this innovative design, versus those of conventional urethane liners, prevents peeling and the premature penetration of concrete material under the liner. Lightweight and easy to install, producers are finding that the wrap-around blade liner is wearing up to eight times longer than steel liners and is highly resistant to any material build-up. "These liners are lasting from three to four years without any concrete penetration. Traditional liners get hardened concrete under them very easily, causing them to lift and peel off. The wrap-around blade liner does not allow this lifting or peeling – even when mixers sit idle between pours," says Durex Sales Engineer Robert Frey, who adds that the wrap-around liners are available for most mixer brands.

## Field-proven for long wear

Currently the Durex wrap-around blade liner is receiving some very positive feedback from producers throughout the U.S., as to its value in reducing costly maintenance, labor, and downtime.

Meyer Material Company, one of the leading suppliers of ready mix concrete in the Chicago and Milwaukee metro areas, has wrap-around blade liners installed on three of its 12-yard Rex mixers in its Wisconsin division. "We'll probably be installing them on our Illinois plants as they have saved us a lot of time and expense," says Tom Madala, maintenance foreman for the company. Madala explains that with their previous use of steel liners, blades still became worn and required replacement. "The steel liners are just facial liners and they're good for about 50,000 yards and that's it. These wrap-around liners are now in their fourth year with over 100,000 yards per year – and we don't have any downtime in installing new blades – which is not the easiest job to do," he says.

Cleveland area-based Osborne Companies, Inc. has wrap-around blade liners installed on two Ross mixers. "It's usually between the one- and two-year points that you start to see separation around the edges of the old-style urethane liners. We've been using urethane liners for many years, and these wrap-around liners are the first to stay on, with no wear or separation even after two years," says Osborne Maintenance Supervisor Bob Trench. "Ours are welded on, so it's not really labor intensive. Compared to the installation of the older style liners, these wrap-around liners are fairly easy to install," he says.



*A traditional nonwrapping discharge blade liner is subject to considerable premature wear and peeling*

Trench explains that he encountered another major problem with conventional urethane liners. “The old style liner is constructed as one piece. So when it does start to lift at the edge – which is always the situation – you lose the entire liner. On the wrap-around liner, the wrap-around edge tip is a separate piece from the center portion of the liner. The edge tip takes the brunt of the damaging action of the mixer, so if it should become worn, you can replace just the tip and not the whole blade cover,” says Trench. “As of now, we’re looking forward to getting maximum wear life and cost savings from the entire liner – which is the ideal situation,” he says.

As to not using blade liners, Trench says, “I’ve worked with plants where we have not used liners and have simply allowed the blades to wear out. In my mind, if you’re in there installing a mixer liner, it doesn’t take much more to install blade liners. It’s a very cost-effective thing to do.”

Mark Laskowski agrees. As head of maintenance for Metro Ready Mix in Salt Lake City, Laskowski says it’s a lot easier to install wrap-around liners versus replacing worn blades. “It’s a major project to replace blades and it’s expensive. You have to shut down production. You have to open the drum, and then you need to have a crane to complete the job,” he says.

Metro Ready Mix has had wrap-around blade liners installed on its 12-yard Erie Strayer mixer for more than a year. “We expect several more years of wear. I do a periodic check on them to look for any peeling or unusual wear. Other than that, I just let them run,” says Laskowski.



Durex wrap-around blade liners are installed on a Con-E-Co drum mixer

**“The steel liners are just facial liners and they’re good for about 50,000 yards and that’s it. These wrap-around liners are now in their fourth year with over 100,000 yards per year...”**

*Tom Madala, Meyer Material Company*

As to steel liners, Laskowski says that steel and concrete just doesn’t go together. “When we first started up this plant, the drum itself was lined, but the blades were not. After about 18 months, I was missing half the blades. But I was able to weld them up again, and put the liners on them. Now I don’t have to worry about cutting out worn steel. These wrap-around liners really protect the blades from wear,” he says.

Troy Merriam, superintendent for McNeil Brothers of Phoenix, says that his wrap-around blade liners are working excellently. “We have them on two of our four Erie Strayer mixers. They have been in our portable plant for more than 40,000 yards and they still look brand new,” he says. Recently the portable plant was used on an Interstate-15 widening project near Las Vegas.

“We’ve used steel liners, but they wear out so fast. Then the blades start wearing out and getting smaller, and we can’t do the job we need to do. We’ve tried the conventional urethane liners, but they couldn’t withstand the Arizona heat. If you’re not running all the time, the typical urethane liner will

get water and slurry underneath it, and will rot out,” says Merriam.

So Merriam consulted with Paul Nielsen, owner of Black Canyon Process Equipment, which supplies and even installs Durex liners for producers in the Arizona region. “His crew installed the wrap-around liners for us in just a few hours. Even in this heat, these liners are not wearing or peeling. They are thicker liners and they will stay on a lot longer. They have worked out really well,” says Merriam.

#### **Cover your assets**

By providing superior protection for valuable mixer blades, Durex wrap-around blade liners greatly contribute to the quality of the concrete mix – while also saving time and money on maintenance. As many producers have found, these field-proven liners outlast steel many times over, and also top the performance of conventional urethane liners, which are subject to concrete penetration and premature peeling. Plus, Durex engineers will size weld-in, wrap-around liners to fit a particular mixer and its wear applications.

In addition to wear resistant blade liners, Durex manufactures liners for tilt mixers, aggregate weigh batchers, rotary distributors, dump cones and chutes, and bins and hoppers. Amid today’s tight profit margins – the use of cost-effective, wear resistant liners is one more way to stay ahead of the game.

