

Potable Water Tanks for the Alaskan Oil Spill



Potable water tanks lined with Corrocote II PW leaving Anchorage Tank in Alaska.

On March 27, 1989 one of the worst tragedies of the decade occurred. The Exxon Valdez ran aground, spilling more than 11 million barrels of crude oil into the Alaskan Gulf.

As a result, Anchorage Tank and Welding of Anchorage, Alaska was subcontracted to build 40 on-board potable water tanks for use on clean-up ships. The tanks ranged in size from 5,000 to 10,000 gallons. Anchorage Tank normally used a two coat epoxy system to line potable water tanks. This conventional system required the application of supplemental heat for seven days to achieve full cure. Because of the urgency of the situation, this painting bottleneck was not acceptable.

Instead, Anchorage Tank chose Madison Chemical's Corrocote II PW to line the tanks because of its many unique performance and handling characteristics.

Corrocote II PW cures in minutes at temperatures down to -15°F and can be applied in one coat using a multi-pass spray technique. The system is NSF listed and has no VOCs, eliminating concerns about water quality or applicator safety.

Surface preparation consisted of blasting the interiors of the tanks to a near white blast with a 2.0 mil profile. The tanks were turned upside down for blasting and coating so the grit could be easily swept out. The manhole and surrounding inside area of the tank were coated first by the applicator standing outside and reaching inside the tank. Within several minutes the coating was

sufficiently cured allowing the applicator to enter the tank and coat the balance of the shell and heads without tracking in any grease or dirt.

In no time at all the applicator was completing the 10,000 gallon tanks in less than 10 minutes (including thickness verifications and touch-ups). The tanks were shipped virtually upon completion. Lowell MacNutt of Anchorage Tank told Madison ***“it was cheaper to air courier Corrocote II PW from the Madison plant in Atlanta than it was to use the epoxy we had in stock”***.

Corrocote II PW helped Anchorage Tank meet their customer's schedule with improved productivity and lower costs. Contact Madison to learn how you can benefit from our polyurethane technology.



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