

# 20 Years, 200 Million Square Feet and ZERO Failures



The STI-P3® underground fuel storage tank.

On December 3, 1987 the Steel Tank Institute of Lake Zurich, IL celebrated the production and installation of the 100,000th STI-P3® steel tank. Like many before, it was protected with Madison's Corrocote II polyurethane coating.

By January of 1998, the Steel Tank Institute reported that over 250,000 STI-P3® underground steel fuel storage tanks were registered and installed. In addition, the Steel Tank Association of Canada estimated that 100,000 tanks were installed in Canada. In total, these tanks involve approximately 200 million square feet of steel, and over 70% of that area is coated with Madison's Corrocote II 100% solids polyurethane coating.

Polyurethane coating systems were developed specifically for the corrosion protection of underground fuel storage tanks in the early 1970's. Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) awarded the very first listing for cathodically protected underground fuel storage tanks to a polyurethane coating in 1975. The newly listed technology was a fast setting, 100% solids coating applied to a thickness of approximately 15 mils.

Unlike existing coating technologies such as coal tar epoxies, the polyurethane coating systems could be applied in a single coat, and would cure in about 15 minutes, even in temperatures below freezing. These features allowed

tank fabricators to increase tank productivity, be more economical and be more competitive with other tank technologies.

In 1979, polyurethane technology was approved for use on the STI-P3® tank by the Steel Tank Institute and American fabricators began to enjoy the same production advantages as their Canadian cousins.

Since then, polyurethane coatings have become the most popular coating technology for these types of tanks. The Steel Tank Insurance company, which warrants many of these tanks for 30 years, reports that no polyurethane coated tank has ever failed due to external corrosion.

The STI-P3® protected tank utilizes a pre-engineered anti-corrosion system involving isolating bushings, cathodic protection and an approved tank coating. The most crucial part of this system is the tank coating: coatings such as Corrocote II.

Currently, the system is listed by Underwriters' Laboratories in Canada and the United States for this purpose under the ULCS603.1 and UL1746 (Part I) standards respectively. Contact Madison for more information about Corrocote tank coatings.



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