

**PROJECT:**  
Elephant Enclosure Area of Zoo

**LOCATION:**  
Portland, Oregon

**OWNER:**  
Portland Zoo

**APPLICATOR:**  
Exquisite Coatings

**COATING SYSTEM:**  
Polyshield HT™

**TOTAL AREA:**  
1,500 square feet

**DATE COMPLETED:**  
August 2008

**PROBLEM:**

In the elephant viewing area, rubber mats over the concrete floor are provided for the elephants to stand on. The mats were coated with urethane to waterproof and protect against wear and tear. This coating became ragged and started to crack. Curious elephants started to pull on the loose pieces of coating. The damaged mats remained wet, and quickly became unsanitary for the elephants and zoo patrons. The zoo needed a new sterile coating to protect the rubber mats from bacteria and waste. It was critical for the coating to withstand high point loading stresses associated with the elephants walking on it.

**SOLUTION:**

Several years earlier, in a separate area of the zoo, Polyshield HT™ had been applied on the same type of rubber floor mat. Based on several years of good performance, Polyshield HT™ was chosen to rehabilitate the damaged viewing area. The old mats were removed and replaced with a ¾-inch thick rubber mat and over-laid with Polyshield HT™ at a thickness of 120-150 mils.

Polyshield HT™ provided a high-strength, resilient coating that can endure the elephant's weight. It also created a seamless protective membrane that resists bacteria and allows for the elephant waste to be easily cleaned several times a day with high pressure water hoses.

**RESULTS:**

The elephants now have a surface which can be cleaned as frequently as required, providing them with a sterile habitat.

