

# COBA Plastics Ltd

## COMPANY PROFILE

## COBA PLASTICS LTD

Marlborough Drive - Fleckney  
Leicester LE8 8UR  
Tel: +44 (0)116 240 1000  
General Fax: +44 (0)116 240 3871  
Sales Fax: +44 (0)116 240 4068  
Accounts Fax: +44 (0)116 240 3685  
Email: sales@cobaplastics.co.uk  
URL: <http://www.cobaplastics.co.uk>



COBA PLASTICS LTD IS REGISTERED AS A  
MEMBER OF THE URS GROUP OF  
COMPANIES SINCE 1997

Coba Plastics Ltd is one of Europe's leading manufacturers and suppliers of industrial and commercial matting products, and is a world-class producer of thermoplastic extruded components.

The company, founded in 1966, is privately owned and located in the centre of the UK, occupying an area of 8,000 sq metres, with a further 2 acres of land adjoining for future development. It employs 140 people.

Coba is divided into two separate divisions – The Matting Division and The Extrusions Division, operating to quality standards: BS EN ISO 9002 and QS9000. Coba also operates to the international environmental management system standard, ISO 14001.

A forward-thinking company, Coba Plastics Ltd, now looks forward to further increasing its position within the marketplace both at home and overseas.

## **INTRODUCTION**

***Coba Plastics Ltd currently offers 30 matting products for industrial and commercial use.***

With so many different matting configurations available, it is essential that the sales representative gathers as much information as possible from a customer/potential customer about the application in question.

All products which are manufactured, stocked, marketed and sold by Coba have a distinct number of specific attributes. Many of the products are employed by their consequent users for reducing operator fatigue when standing for prolonged periods. In addition to this (and equally as important) many products can help to reduce the possibility of slips, trips and falls in the workplace. Our matting products are also specified to reduce noise emission levels and to improve hygiene. This brief list is not exhaustive but gives a quick snapshot of some of the main advantages of using matting. It is up to you, the sales representative, to recommend the most appropriate and well-suited matting for the application.

We hope the following information will help you to do this with confidence. The Matting Division at Coba, with French, German and English speaking personnel, will be delighted to offer any support and further advice required.

## Slips, Trips, Falls and Back Pain Facts

### **Slips and trips and resulting falls are the single largest cause of major injuries at work in the UK**

- ◆ This problem is so big in some sectors of business, for example food and catering, that up to half of all major injuries are caused by this type of accident.
- ◆ Slips, trips and resulting falls on the same level accounted for 48% of reported non-fatal major injuries in the service sector.
- ◆ In manufacturing this figure is around 27% and for all industries is 36% - over a third of all reported major injuries.
- ◆ Slips and trips affect not just employees. 58% of all reported non-fatal major injuries to members of the public were also a result of a slip, trip or fall on the same level.
- ◆ In total, 33,000 slip, trip and fall injuries were reported across all sectors leaving thousands of people unable to work for long periods. Some people were tragically even killed.

### **Back Pain**

- ◆ Back pain accounts for up to 150 million days absence a year in the UK according to a CBI survey.

### **Costs**

- ◆ Resulting costs are high. In human terms the factors of pain, suffering, reduced quality of life and moral considerations cannot be measured.
- ◆ In economic terms the cost to employers is over £300,000,000 a year. This calculation takes account of damages, extra production costs, insurance costs and administration.
- ◆ The total cost to society is as high as £810 to £840 million a year when considering factors such as loss of potential output, social security and medical costs.

## **Why Invest in Matting?**

### **Industrial Matting:**

- ❖ **To help reduce the likelihood of slips, trips and falls.**
- ❖ **To help reduce levels of fatigue – an operator is 5.2 times more likely to complain of “considerable general discomfort” at the end of a working day if he or she is not standing on a mat.**
- ❖ **To improve productivity. As tiredness is reduced, productivity and efficiency is increased.**
- ❖ **Prevention of conditions such as back pain, which is the single largest cause of absenteeism in the UK, is easier than cure.**
- ❖ **To provide a means of ‘drainage’ in wet or oily areas.**
- ❖ **To help keep work areas tidy.**
- ❖ **To highlight areas of danger or where a specific course of action needs to be taken.**

### **Commercial Matting:**

- ❖ **Independent reports suggest that when using an entrance mat up to 70% of dirt and debris can be prevented from entering a building, therefore protecting carpets and flooring.**
- ❖ **Janitorial personnel save time in removing dirt and debris.**
- ❖ **Efficient drainage properties to reduce slip-related accidents.**
- ❖ **Improves aesthetic appearance and can define corporate colours.**

# **COBA Plastics Ltd**

## **Press Release**

### **Concrete Evidence that Cobra's matting is a Comfort to Industry**

Coba Plastics Ltd has received the results of a detailed scientific study evaluating the anti-fatigue properties of a selection of its matting products., comprising Cobamat Standard, Solid Fatigue Step, Safety Anti-Fatigue and Safety Deckplate.

The results provide statistical evidence that Cobra's matting products offer physical benefits to operators who stand and walk for prolonged periods of time during their working day. 'Considerable discomfort' was on average 5.2 times greater at the end of the working day when mats were not fitted. Discomfort to the calves was 2 to 3 times higher at the end of the weeks that operators stood on concrete floors.

The Design Ergonomics Group at Loughborough University was commissioned by Cobra Plastics to undertake the study last autumn as part of the company's policy of research and product development. The scientific assessment took place over a period of seven weeks and it was decided that a long-term evaluation in an industrial situation would be more advantageous than a short-term study in a laboratory.

Finding a suitable industrial environment to test the products was the next important task. Cobra turned to Land Rover who subsequently invited a number of its employees to take part in the assessment. Ten employees working on the Range Rover Door Carousel volunteered their assistance in the project.

The volunteers had all been used to standing on a concrete floor and their normal day's work involved fitting the same components on a daily basis. Two females and eight males ranging from 31 to 56 years made up the group. Each person received a body discomfort diagram where data was collected three times a day for 30 body areas. Recordings were taken of discomfort to the

upper and lower body at the start of the day, just before lunch and at the end of the day.

The group had to record one of three levels of discomfort – slight, moderate and severe. (Previous reviews had identified that this method provided clearer information than physiological, postural or biomechanical measures in studies of matting.) Each operator agreed to stand on each matting product for a week and also experience a ‘no mat’ (ie concrete) condition for the same length of time.

In a detailed report, Professor Mark Porter and Dr Samantha Porter reveal that at the end of each week, all of Cobra’s matting products delayed the onset of discomfort in the feet and reduced its severity at the end of the working day. The most effective being the Safety Deckplate which was preferred on 82.5% of occasions, compared to 62.5% for Solid Fatigue Step and Safety Anti-Fatigue matting, and 20% for Cobamat Standard. (The ‘open weave’ design of Cobamat was not well suited to this particular application where small components were frequently dropped during the day and trapped between the holes.)

Although reports of discomfort to the feet were appreciably higher in the weeks when matting was not fitted, there was little difference identified in the lower back, hands and wrists.

The report highlighted that without the provision of mats, foot discomfort builds up as the working week progresses and reduces over the weekend break. Although unable to completely prevent discomfort, it is clear from the study that all the mats helped to reduce its severity, with more noticeable benefits being recorded at the end of the week when discomfort levels were at their highest.

This evaluation of anti-fatigue mats has been an extremely useful study for Cobra, Loughborough University and those involved at Land Rover. The data recorded provides irrefutable evidence to employers that matting of this kind is an asset to workers’ comfort.

More comprehensive details on this evaluation can be obtained from Richard Cooke or Chris Stanley at Cobra Plastics Ltd by telephoning 00 44 116 240 1000.

## **Bevelled Edging**

Bevelled PVC edging strips can be welded to any grade of Cobamat, available in matching or contrasting colours. This edging is offered to suit customer requirement or supplied as a completely edged mat. It has to be factory-fitted. Available in Red, Black, Blue, Green, Yellow, Grey or Brown. Bevelled edging provides a more 'finished' appearance to the product and helps to prevent single mats from sliding around. It also helps to prevent tripping onto the mat and can be used effectively to define areas of potential hazards. Edging is ideal for use in areas where trolleys are used as it allows wheeled access onto the matting.

## **Non-Standard Sizes**

Most of the products can be ordered in special sizes. It is possible with Cobamat, as it is manufactured at the Coba facility, to make a product to virtually any length required, ie: from 0.5 m to 25 m approximately. Wider widths (more than 1.5 m) can be achieved by fabricating two or three mats together by heat welding the extrusions in a position that cannot be seen by the human eye.

## **Size Tolerance**

Please contact the Sales Office for tolerance on sizes of individual products.

Specific data can be provided on package type, weight and volume. Contact the Sales Office for further information.

## **Delivery**

Standard sizes ex-stock. Longer delivery time for special sizes.

## **Press Releases/Media Information**

Press Releases, photographs and other media information is available on request for marketing purposes.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PRODUCT DATA IS FOR GUIDANCE ONLY. THE DATA AND SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS INCLUDED IN THIS MANUAL ARE NOT EXHAUSTIVE. ALL DIMENSIONS QUOTED ARE NOMINAL FIGURES.**



### **Merits of Loose Mats**

Ideal for smaller areas, such as work stations and entrances and can be easily moved from one place to another.

Loose laid in position so very easy to install.

Easily lifted to clean.

### **Merits of Rolls of Matting**

The perfect safety solution for production and assembly lines with a wide variety of options available.

Ideal for areas where operators are required to walk up and down, rather than one stationary position.

### **Merits of Interlocking Tiles**

Ideal where more unusual lengths, widths and shapes of matting are required. Cost-effective because small areas can be installed at a time and isolated tiles can be replaced, should they become worn, without the need for re-matting the entire area. Easy to fit – full installation instructions are available. Areas can be adjusted once installed.

### **Chemical Resistance**

Contact the Sales Office for more detailed information on specific products.

### **Fixing Blocks**

Fixing Blocks are PVC cubes, manufactured by Coba Plastics Ltd, available as an accessory for the **Cobamat Standard**, **Cobamat Heavy**, **Entramat** and **Hygimat** products for securing the mat or matting to the floor. The fixing block fits 'snug' between the holes in the matting. Each block has two 'notches' that fit into the holes in the extruded PVC strips of the matting to hold it firmly in place. The blocks have a countersunk hole to allow them to be bolted to the floor. They are available in Red, Black, Blue, Green, Yellow, Grey or Brown.

**NB – When using Fixing Blocks with COBAMAT HEAVY, a section of the extrusion has to be cut away where the block is to be fixed to form a 22 mm x 22 mm hole because of its closer weave pattern.**



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# APPLICATION ENVIRONMENT

## WET/OILY

Loopermat  
 Cobamat Light  
 Cobamat Standard  
 Cobamat Inter  
 Cobamat Heavy  
 Workstation Mat  
 High Duty Mat  
 Worksafe Mat  
 Comfort Lok  
 Solid Fatigue Step  
 Standard Anti-Fatigue  
 Safety Anti-Fatigue  
 Anti-Fatigue Ribbed  
 Safety Anti-Fatigue  
 Ribbed  
 Comfort Tread  
 Comfort Air  
 Deckplate  
 Safety Deckplate  
 Fluted Anti-Fatigue  
 Static Dissipative  
 Solid Vinyl Matting  
 Grip Foot  
 Fatigue Step Grease-  
 Proof  
 Hygimat

## DRY

Loopermat  
 Cobamat Light  
 Cobamat Standard  
 Cobamat Inter  
 Cobamat Heavy  
 Workstation Mat  
 High Duty Mat  
 Worksafe Mat  
 Comfort Lok  
 Solid Fatigue Step  
 Standard Anti-Fatigue  
 Safety Anti-Fatigue  
 Anti-Fatigue Ribbed  
 Safety Anti-Fatigue  
 Ribbed  
 Comfort Tread  
 Comfort Air  
 Deckplate  
 Safety Deckplate  
 Fluted Anti-Fatigue  
 Static Dissipative  
 Solid Vinyl Matting  
 Grip Foot  
 Fatigue Step Grease-  
 Proof  
 Hygimat

## ENTRANCE AREAS

Loopermat  
 Aquatrap  
 Track Control  
 Entramat  
 Solid Vinyl Matting  
 Grip Foot  
 Clean Step

## LEISURE

Loopermat  
 Grip Foot  
 Leisuremat

**USEFUL CONTACTS**

<b>Chris Stanley</b>	<b>Sales Manager (UK)</b>  Tel: +44 (0) 116 240 1000 Fax: +44 (0) 116 240 4068  E-mail: <a href="mailto:cns@cobaplastics.co.uk">cns@cobaplastics.co.uk</a>	<b>COBA PLASTICS LTD</b> Marlborough Drive Fleckney Leicestershire LE8 8UR
<b>Richard Cooke</b>	<b>Director - International Sales Matting</b>  Tel: +44 (0) 116 240 1000 Fax: +44 (0) 116 240 4068  E-mail: <a href="mailto:richard.cooke@cobaplastics.co.uk">richard.cooke@cobaplastics.co.uk</a>	<b>COBA PLASTICS LTD</b> Marlborough Drive Fleckney Leicestershire LE8 8UR
<b>Mark Hughes</b>	<b>Northern Accounts Manager</b>  Mobile: 07971 136068 Fax: +44 (0) 116 240 4068  E-mail: <a href="mailto:mrh@cobaplastics.co.uk">mrh@cobaplastics.co.uk</a>	<b>COBA PLASTICS LTD</b> Marlborough Drive Fleckney Leicestershire LE8 8UR
<b>Rachael Lucas</b>	<b>Matting Sales</b>  Tel: +44 (0) 116 240 1000 Fax: +44 (0) 116 240 4068  E-mail: <a href="mailto:rlucas@cobaplastics.co.uk">rlucas@cobaplastics.co.uk</a>	<b>COBA PLASTICS LTD</b> Marlborough Drive Fleckney Leicestershire LE8 8UR

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