

CIVIL SAFETY BRIDGES THE GAP

Oxford Plastics Systems’ new line of LowPro trench covers are lighter, safer and more efficient than the steel alternatives on the market. The covers are available for the civil and construction industries through Civil Safety Products, Oxford Plastics’ leading Australian distributor.

Civil Safety Products stocks a range of fit for purpose LowPro temporary trench covers that weigh a fraction of the steel plate equivalents, that can be used for various applications – including use as driveway boards, pedestrian covers, pot hole covers and trip hazard covers. In Australia, Civil Safety Products is Oxford Plastic Systems’ leading distributor of the LowPro Trench Covers.

“When pavement areas are broken, cracked or needing to be dug up for civil construction or repair works, compliant safety solutions need to be put in place to safeguard the public and workers,” says Civil Safety Products Managing Director Neil Cuthbert.

“Another factor is ensuring time is not wasted by having to temporarily secure these areas with heavy trench covers, such as those made from 20 mm steel plate. Not only are steel plates extraordinarily heavy – for example, a steel plate of 1,200 mm by 800 mm by 20 mm weighs in at approximately 151 kg – they also require heavy lifting machinery to manoeuvre them into position.

“This adds extra cost, downtime waiting for the appropriate safety measures to be implemented and usually requires a collective of workers to deploy them. There is also the potential for workplace accidents if such steel plates are not handled correctly – we’ve all heard the stories where a finger, limb or a life has been lost on the job.

“With smarter technology now available, it makes sense to invest in our lighter weight temporary trench covers that are stringently tested to Australian Standards, compliant with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012, and that can be bought and reused over and over again at a relatively low cost,” he says.

THE LOWPRO RANGE

The LowPro range has a weight and size ratio that just can’t be beaten by its steel plate cousins. They can be transported, stacked and put in place requiring no more than two

people and a utility vehicle, compared with steel plates, which need a crane or forklift and a lot of extra organisational processes.

The comparable data¹ of the three sizes shows the difference. The 1,125 mm by 1,125 mm LowPro 11/11 weighs just 26 kg and has a load capacity of 500 kg; a 20 mm steel plate of the same size weighs in at 200 kg. The 1,200 mm by 800 mm LowPro 12/8 weighs 17 kg with load capacity of 2 t distributed weight, compared with the 151 kg steel plate equivalent, and the 42 kg 1,500 mm by 1,000 mm LowPro with the load capacity to support one wheel of a vehicle up to 3.5 t or 400 kg pedestrian weight, compared with the 236 kg steel plate equivalent.

“Our most popular trench cover is the LowPro 12/8,” says Mr Cuthbert.

“Its innovative flexi-edge allows safe installation and protection over trip hazards, pedestrian walkway concrete damage areas, and small pits. It’s no slouch in area capacity either, as it is specifically designed to cover a 700 mm trench. The LowPro 15/10 will

LOWPRO BENEFITS

- AS3996 load rating and slip resistance compliant
- WHS Act 2012 compliant
- Adjust to cambers in the road or pathway
- Self-weighted
- Stable without bolting
- LowPro 12/8 designed with gas vents and probe holes
- Replaceable edges available for LowPro 12/8 and LowPro 15/10

safely span a hole measuring up to 900 mm by 1,200 mm – and they’re shock resistant.”

Temporary trench covers also vary in durability, so Civil Safety Products says there is wisdom in being wary of cheap alternatives. Oxford Plastic products are gaining in popularity, proven to be reliable, sturdy and practical, and doing well when Work Health and Safety compliance is concerned. **T**



A ground hazard requiring a trench cover.



A LowPro cover over a ground hazard on a pedestrian walkway.

For more information visit www.civilsafetyproducts.com.au

1. Steel plate weight data sourced from engineeringtoolbox.com, based on steel density of 7,850m³