

A Chip Off the Old Block

Petite, pretty and just 22 years old, Justina Porciello is not the kind of person you might expect to find breaking up concrete slabs for a living. Yet within the space of just a few months she has become an expert operator of hydrodemolition robots, helping to remove corroded concrete on Toronto's underground car parks.



Maybe it is in her genes. Justina was introduced to the job by her father, David Porciello, who is hydrodemolition manager with Toronto's Can Mar Contracting Ltd., and a highly respected authority on this specialized form of demolition work.

If there were initially some raised

eyebrows on the prospect of a young girl pursuing this kind of a career in the construction industry, Justina is certainly proving the sceptics to be wrong.

David meanwhile is glowing with pride. "Without a doubt she is one of the best hydrodemolition operators I have ever trained," he says.

According to Justina she never had any misgivings. "It took about three months' training before I felt totally competent and now I just love the job," she says.

She joined Can Mar in the spring, and in addition to operating the unit she also is responsible for its daily maintenance and is able to handle simple breakdowns.

Hydrodemolition is rapidly gaining popularity as a method of removing deteriorated concrete, a

high-pressure water jet being used instead of a conventional jackhammer.

Because of the precision the water jet allows, deteriorated concrete can be cut away without damaging the sound concrete rebar.

It is cleaner and faster than jackhammer



techniques and also eliminates the risk of operators suffering from "white finger", an industrial injury triggered by the continual use of hand-held vibrating equipment.

Hydrodemolition is capable of treating up to 92,9 m²/day, and by comparison, about 15-20 jackhammer operators would be needed to achieve the same production level.

Can Mar's new hydrodemolition division has successfully treated more than 37 161 m² of underground parking garage slabs and ramps in Toronto in the last 24 months alone.

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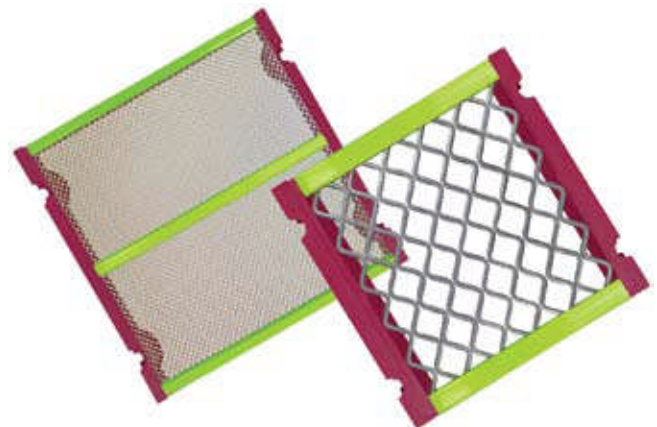
Flex-Mat® 3 Increases Screen Capacity & Material Throughput While Reducing Downtime

Flex-Mat® 3 High-Performance, Self-Cleaning Screen Media from Montreal-based Major Wire Industries Limited helps operations increase screen capacity and material throughput while reducing downtime. Available for modular or tensioned screen decks, Flex-Mat 3 panels have more open area, providing up to 30% more screen capacity than woven wire and up to 50% more screen capacity than polyurethane and rubber panels. It employs independently vibrating wires that increase product throughput by up to 40% over traditional woven wire or polyurethane panels by increasing open area and eliminating any blinding, pegging and clogging. To date, Flex-Mat 3 is operating in more than 20 000 applications worldwide.

Some aggregate producers are switching to larger screen boxes to gain added capacity. Typically, producers can gain the

same or more capacity by trying Flex-Mat 3 first and save money compared with purchasing larger screen boxes.

For tensioned screen decks, Flex-Mat 3's signature lime green polyurethane strips align to the screen box's crown bars and hold individual wires in place as they run from hook to hook. Wear life exceeds that of woven wire up to three times because there are no cross wires with high wear spots like there are with woven wire. On modular screen decks, Flex-Mat 3's modular panels install easily, similar to traditional polyurethane and rubber panels. On both screen types, Flex-Mat 3's wires vibrate independently to



better separate material, virtually eliminating blinding, pegging or clogging. This minimizes downtime spent cleaning or replacing screen cloth, increasing production time.

Source: Major Wire Industries Limited