

## PROJECT PROFILE

### Rhome United Methodist Church, Rhome, TX

#### How Clear Penetrating Sealer Resurrected Historical House of Worship

Rhome United Methodist Church needed a facelift. Located in a small Texas town near Fort Worth, the brick façade covering the 10,000 square-foot church had accumulated nearly 75 years of dirt, grime and sediment. Portions of this Texas Historical Designated Building were black with grit. The church's lackluster appearance belied the youthful spirit of the 100-year-old congregation.

For years, congregants had discussed the need for a building facelift. Funds, however, seemed more appropriately spent on community outreach programs like W.A.R.M. (Wise Area Relief Mission) which provides food, utility payment assistance and other services to Wise County, Texas residents. So when Steve Velten, senior chemist with Carlisle Coatings & Waterproofing (CCW), was contemplating a test site for CCW's new masonry sealer technology, Rhome United Methodist Church seemed an answer to prayer.

Clear Penetrating Sealer is a breakthrough in masonry sealer technology. It is a water soluble, reactive nanotechnology similar to the lotus leaf, nature's only self-cleaning organism. When rain falls on lotus leaves, nanoscale, hair-like structures cause water to bead up, roll off and collect dirt, creating what scientists call the "lotus effect."

That same technology has been incorporated into Clear Penetrating Sealer, creating the only masonry sealer that will not harm metal, plastic, glass and other common vegetation. And unlike competitor products, it can be applied to damp surfaces. Clear Penetrating Sealer's "no-tarp, no-tape" formula works on the most common types of substrates, eliminating confusing product choices. It is also easy to transport and stock, thanks to conveniently packaged 1 and 20 liter containers.



New product field trials always require a leap of faith. But Reverend Fredric L. Utz was willing to give the project his blessing once Velten demonstrated how Clear Penetrating Sealer could not only improve the church's appearance, but also help preserve the historic building for future generations.

#### Restoration Preparation

Donovan Heminokeky, CCW technical sales representative, and Joe Greene, CCW technical services representative, were chosen to run the field trial based on past experience with water repellent application. Both were former contractors who specialized in remedial and restoration work with 20 years combined experience.

The five-day project included renting a lift and driving it to the church some 90 miles away. Once the lift was set up, Heminokeky and Greene routed and caulked cracks and joints exceeding 1/16" in width, as well as caulked window frames. And then the fun began.

#### Rhome United Methodist Church at a glance

##### Location:

Rhome, Texas

##### Owner:

Rhome Congregation of the United Methodist Church

##### Project Type:

Field Trial

##### Waterproofing Contractor:

Carlisle Coatings & Waterproofing

##### Carlisle Coatings & Waterproofing

##### Products:

- Clear Penetrating Sealer

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#### Skeptics Turn Converts

When Heminokeky was recruited to the Clear Penetrating Sealer development team, he was a vocal skeptic. His former job had convinced him that water repellent work was tedious and expensive.

"Clear water repellants are two types," Heminokeky explained. "They are either film formers or penetrating water repellants. Both come with a lot of baggage. In most cases, there is a strong chance you will have to evacuate buildings because of the fumes and odors produced by the solvents in the water repellent. Overspray can kill or damage vegetation and the products can etch glass windows and damage metal. So you have to tarp and tape the landscaping and windows, and you'd better make sure cars are parked far away or covered!"

Added labor for tarping and taping landscaping and windows adds to the cost of the job. But on high-rise buildings, the real expense lies in the fact that contractors essentially have to mobilize a swing stage or man lift, power wash, de-mobilize the lift, and re-mobilize two-to-three days later when the substrate is dry.

"None of the products on the market today can be applied to damp surfaces," Heminokeky. "So first you power wash the masonry in sections, moving the swing stage as you go. Then you wait several days for the surface to dry. Once it's dry, you start all over and apply the sealer. These jobs are a big hassle."

Greene, too, was in the "hassle" camp when it came to water repellent sealers. "The initial prep covering windows and plants is really time consuming, especially on multi-story buildings. Then you have to remove it all. The most commonly used sealers are solvent based, so you have to use special precautions to make sure the product doesn't overflow into streets or onto vegetation. Plus these products are packaged in drums making them hard to move around and they also create a lot of jobsite waste. These jobs are a pain and they're not that profitable at the end of the day."

In June, Heminokeky and Greene loaded one 20 liter container of Clear Penetrating Sealer into the back of a truck, rented a lift and headed to Rhome. The hardened skeptics determined to put Clear Penetrating Sealer product claims to the test on the historic brick structure. Already a believer based on extensive laboratory tests, Velten simply observed.

As Greene power washed the surface, Heminokeky followed directly on his heels, applying the Clear Penetrating Sealer even as the water was dripping to the ground. He sprayed windows. Greene washed them off. No surface was safe, including metal and plastic. The pair even sprayed Clear Penetrating Sealer on the day lilies. (Velten happily reported a month later the thriving plants had to be cut back because of overgrowth.)

"This wasn't a multi-story building, but being able to mobilize once is a huge deal," Greene said. "You set up the swing stage, clean and seal in one shot. That's a huge time and money saver."

"I told the sealer development team I was going to try to make this product fail," Heminokeky said. "Bottom line? I couldn't. I mean parts of this 75-year old building were black with grime. Today it looks as good as new."

#### Another Clear Penetrating Sealer convert? Reverend Utz.

"We are very pleased that your company selected the Rhome Church for a field trial of your Clear Penetrating Sealer," he wrote in a thank-you note. "There was no discoloration. There was no inconvenience to the church's schedule. The benefit will be in the water proofing and the preservation quality of your product. Our church members are very grateful that their historic church building has been maintained for future generations."



Before



After