

Award winning high friction  
anti-skid carriageway access  
cover range

SAFE, SECURE, VERSATILE

Helping ensure the safety  
of road users and  
pedestrians  
12 years on

In collaboration with  
Bristol City Council



The issues faced

Creating a safer road infrastructure is seen by local authorities as a priority for reducing accidents caused by skidding. On roads today there are many factors which can contribute to increasing the risk of accidents in particular those facing motorcyclists and cyclists.



Access covers in the carriageway can become slippery over time, their raised patterns worn by decades of traffic sometimes leaving a polished slippery surface.



Findings

As part of the Broadmead redevelopment programme in 2009 working in partnership with Bristol City Council, Saint-Gobain PAM UK carried out large-scale testing in the city centre of a high friction access cover solution known as GripTop. Around 70 new GripTop access covers were installed around the inner ring road, a road system that is subjected to continuous heavy traffic. Each installation was monitored and tested during the two-year development programme.



# CASE STUDY



## The Solution:

Through an exhaustive new product development programme Saint-Gobain PAM UK have been able to achieve a major breakthrough that has resulted in the development of GripTop. Fully compliant and Kitemarked with the requirements of BS EN 124, GripTop features a patented factory applied maintenance free high-friction top surface which brings together high performance bonding agents and bauxite aggregate on a recessed ductile iron substrate.

12 years on, several of the original installations in Bristol City centre were independently tested in-situ in November by Lucideon, to determine if any degradation in the skid resistance performance had occurred. Using the pendulum method in accordance with BS 7976 locations were tested along Bond Street, York Street and Pritchard Street.

## The Value

GripTop is proven to offer a permanent high friction solution for where the road design or configuration require long-lasting grip performance such as breaking areas approaching traffic lights, pedestrian crossings and roundabouts.

GripTop is available in E600 and D400 load classification, Briton, Inter-Ax, Opt-Emax, Silent Knight or Ult-Emax variants and a wide range of clear opening sizes to suit different applications.



The results proved to be very encouraging with an average PSRV (polished skid resistance value) recorded of over 75, meaning only a 6% loss in performance after 12 years of continuous service, proving the long term durability of GripTop.



**“** We are delighted that Saint-Gobain PAM's commitment to monitor the covers' performance has proved them to maintain their highly tenacious grip thereby making a very real contribution to road safety in this renowned 'Cycling City'.

I am now entering my 45th year in this industry and I am very proud to have been involved albeit in a small way with this award winning product. As a Motorcyclist and an Officer involved in crash investigations I am confident that their introduction has averted many accidents and thereby potentially many life changing injuries. **”**

**Mike Brewer** *Civil and Contract Project Manager*  
BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Griptop is just one of several innovative solutions offered by Saint-Gobain PAM UK.

For further information and advice on any other product or service, please contact our team on:

**0115 989 8903** or visit [www.pamline.co.uk](http://www.pamline.co.uk)