



Fairbanks International
Airport
Took a Walk with Us.



MITCH STOUTENBERG, FOREMAN OF TERMINAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES, FAIRBANKS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

“Powerbond is the most ideal carpet for our airport, because of the unique environmental conditions both summer and winter,” said Stoutenberg “this carpet stands up miraculously well attested by its current condition and color, so we’re very pleased with it.”

Antron® Sustainable Flooring Award

In May of 2004 the Fairbanks International Airport was honored as the Grand Prize winner of the Antron Sustainable Flooring Award. Recognizing sustainable interior design practices through the use of performance-driven flooring in commercial carpet applications, the award was open to projects with floorcovering made with Antron, nylon installed 10 or more years ago. The Fairbanks Airport features Powerbond carpet that has been on the floor since its original installation in 1975.



a different walk

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Powerbond endures. 2005 marks the 30th Anniversary of installation at the Fairbanks International Airport, surviving the brutal environmental conditions and over eight million travelers. According to Mitch Stoutenberg, foreman of terminal maintenance services for the airport, Powerbond has withstood circumstances that no other floor coverings would have.

Temperatures in Fairbanks range from the low 90's in the summer to as low as 70 degrees below zero in the winter, but other elements contribute to the abuse of the Powerbond as well.

“Hunting and fishing in Alaska is world-renowned, we’ve seen streaks of blood across the carpet...salmon slime and seal oil. But we’ve been able to get it out of the Powerbond and within 24 hours the odor is gone, and you can’t tell it was there,” said Stoutenberg.

River and glacier silt common to the Tanana Valley and calcium chloride from snow are regularly tracked onto the Powerbond, and each year Powerbond survives severe flooding caused by spring thawing. Stoutenberg and his maintenance crew have used conventional cleaning methods, and have not had to be concerned with discoloration or damage.

There is also a historical story behind the unique environmental conditions that Powerbond has endured. When the construction of the Alaskan

Pipeline peaked in 1975, the traffic in the airport went from 100,000 to about 700,000. During this time, anything from crude oil to every type of mud and dirt was tracked onto the carpet.

“At times, you would have baggage and tool boxes and people laying and sleeping on the floor from one end of the terminal to the other,” said Stoutenberg. “We just operated 24 hours a day, and cleaned the carpet the best we could. And, it survived extremely well. I don’t know of another carpet that would have.”

In 1983, the Fairbanks airport served as the meeting grounds for Pope John Paul and President Reagan. Over 5,000 people trudged onto the Powerbond in the north terminal through the muddy construction areas to use the indoor restroom facilities.

“At that time the Powerbond was totally covered with mud, silt and asphalt. Afterwards, the maintenance crew felt most of it would absolutely have to be replaced. But in one week, all of the carpet had been completely cleaned, and it did not discolor.”

Since its installation in 1975, Powerbond has retained its beauty and function under the unique historical and environmental circumstances of the Fairbanks International Airport. That’s a story that truly illustrates the performance of our Powerbond products.

