

# Fort Vale Engineering Factory Floor East Lancashire



**Q Flooring has installed a floor in a new state-of-the-art manufacturing plant for Fort Vale Engineering – without disrupting the transfer of plant from their old factory.**

Fort Vale Engineering is the undisputed world leader in valves and safety systems for the road tankers and containers that transport everything from hazardous liquids to foodstuffs.

For some 30 years, the company operated from two former textile mills in a residential part of Nelson, East Lancashire. However, to keep up with a growing demand for its products and to rationalise production, it has just relocated its entire operation to a new state-of-the-art manufacturing plant at nearby Simonstone.

The new 7 acre factory, formerly an LG Phillips glassworks facility, is purpose-built, so no compromises have been made and every attention has been given to detail, to ensure optimum efficiency in all areas.

This includes the factory floor which had to take the point loading of heavy machinery and fork lift truck traffic. It was therefore vital to install a floor covering, specifically developed for heavy industrial use that will be hard wearing, slip resistant, durable and easy to keep clean. Truck routes and work areas also had to be defined with bold yellow demarcation lines.

Said Fort Vale Engineering's Technical Director, Mr David Smith: "Several flooring specialists were invited to tender, but Q Flooring's impressive

portfolio of successful industrial flooring installations and the strength of their detailed proposal were important factors in our decision to award them the contract to install our new floor."

Because of the high residual moisture content in the old floor, Q Flooring's team of installers applied a vapour permeable resin floor system that would allow it to breath without delaminating. Oil spillage would be inevitable so the floor was provided with an anti-slip profile using chemical and wear resistant polymer beads. A 1.5mm thick version of this material using carborundum

**Division:** Industrial Flooring  
**Client:** Fort Vale Engineering  
**Project:** Factory Floor  
**Size:** 8,900 sq. m.



aggregates to provide even higher anti-slip profile and extreme wear resistance was applied to heavily trafficked areas.

Before the system could be laid, the existing floor, which comprised a number of different substrates, had to be prepared. This was completed using new technology enclosed blast cleaning which provides a uniform, even, profile across the entire width of the machine.

All cracks and day joints were filled with semi-flexible resins, so once the final coating was applied a seamless surface was achieved.

The management team at Fort Vale went to great lengths in planning the transition from their old factory to ensure minimum disruption to production. It was essential that other trades had full access to the floor during installation of the new floor – The fact that the resin was water based,

solvent free and rapid curing made this possible.

Concludes Mr Smith: "The new floor is without doubt one of the focal points in our new factory. Q Flooring were excellent in their understanding of our needs, particularly in relation to working with us to ensure that its installation did not disrupt other trades during our move. They installed the new floor very efficiently and with minimum fuss."

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