

Tensid celebrates 25 years with new Torik

Tensid celebrates its 25th anniversary this year by introducing new superheated water and nebulous spray cleaning systems under the name of Torik.

This year Tensid is celebrating 25 years of supplying equipment and cleaning products to restoration cleaning contractors and conservators, as well as stone, brick and concrete manufacturers and suppliers. And it is still developing its product range. The company's most recent launch is the Tensid Torik superheated water cleaning system.

This method of cleaning and its recognised benefits are not new. In fact, Tensid has been supplying cleaning equipment like this for many years. But products can always be improved and the new Torik system has been developed with both the user and specifier in mind.

It is available as standard in 110 volts to meet site requirements, although a 240V version is available on request.

Manufactured using high quality

components, it comes with a set of three, quickly interchangeable lances. This, says Tensid, offers the contractor a reliable, high performance system at an affordable price with low maintenance costs, while the specifier gets ease of inclusion into superheated water cleaning projects.

Torik Nebulous is another addition to the Tensid family. Again, not a new way of cleaning but Torik nebulous has been developed to meet the high demands of the cleaning industry, which requires reliable equipment capable of meeting specification requirements.

It is built to provide a flexible cleaning system, with manifolds manufactured in 1.4m long, marine grade stainless steel. They can be linked together easily to clean large areas with the adjustable nozzles mounted on tough, flexible arms.

These nozzles can deliver anything from water droplets to ultra fine mist and are fitted with individual on/off valves for precise and detailed cleaning.

An easy mounting system to scaffolding is included and there is a built-in pressure gauge and timer.

This system was used by PAYE Stone to clean the Old War Office in Whitehall (see box for Adrian Paye's comments).

Cleaning masonry with poultices and latex material is one of the most gentle and safest ways of cleaning stonework yet can produce extraordinarily effective results.



From Tensid, the Torik.

One example where these Tensid products were used is at the Cenotaph in Whitehall when it was given a once-in-a-generation clean in readiness for the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War next year, when it will be required to look its best as the country's main focus for the remembrance.

Part of the monument was cleaned with superheated water, but the top, where heavier and deeper-seated contamination was disfiguring the stone, required an alternative approach.

What was used was Tensid's Monumentique, a latex paste. It was applied with trowels, left for 24 hours to dry and form a film, then gently pulled off, taking the trapped soiling with it. The result is an effective deep-clean.

Monumentique is based on synthetic latex and cleans deeper seated stains as well as surface contamination.

Here, too, Tensid offers a new version of an established product. It is a new natural latex made by Prosooco and called Dri Klean, which is generally better suited for cleaning superficial surface soiling and especially for internal cleaning when the use of water is not possible or practical.

Clay poultices work in a similar way to latex. The appropriate poultice is applied to the soiled or stained area, left for an appropriate period depending on the level of contamination. Sometimes it helps if the poultice is covered with a plastic film to prevent it drying out prematurely.

The poultice will dissolve and mobilise the stains and soiling. At the end of the process, the remaining dry clay can easily and safely be removed and disposed off.

Tensid supplies a range of poultices that all work in a similar way but are individually formulated to deal with various types of staining – atmospheric, paint, copper, iron, oil or water. ■

Cleaning the statue of Shakespeare at Leicester Square and the Old War Office

by Adrian Paye

In the centre of Leicester Square is a Carrara marble statue of William Shakespeare, erected during the remodelling of the square in 1874.

Over the decades it has suffered from soiling from atmospheric pollutants and staining from chemicals used in the fountain water. PAYE was employed by Westminster Council to provide technical advice and to clean and restore the monument.

Following an initial clean using superheated water to remove loosely adhered surface staining, various poultices were trialled to establish the most appropriate cleaning solution. These included Monumentique Paste, 1260 Poultice and Marble Poultice. Two applications of Tensid 1260 with a dwell time of 72 hours per coat was proven to be most effective, and this was also undertaken on the marble dolphins, bowl and surrounding plinth.

The cleaned and restored statue now stands proudly in the centre of the recently refurbished square.

At the Old War Office the Portland stone facades were cleaned using carefully controlled volumes of water delivered as fine nebulous sprays.

