

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

Stadiums and arenas used to have a lifetime of about 70 years. Now, they are being replaced at a much faster rate, and at least 25 major league sports facilities are predicted to be approved or under construction by 2005.

With the boom of sports facilities construction, architects have specified STYROFOAM® brand insulation because of its superior moisture resistance, durability and compressive strength. STYROFOAM brand insulation is an extruded polystyrene rigid foam manufactured by The Dow Chemical Company that is reusable and CFC-free**. Two recent ballpark constructions that use the insulation are Comerica Park and SAFECO Field.

Comerica Park

When the team owner of the Detroit Tigers wanted to build a new ballpark, the Detroit office of SHG Incorporated was named as the architect of record. SHG designed a \$260-million stadium with a seating capacity of 40,000 and selected STYROFOAM brand insulation as the insulation material of choice for the cavitywall and plaza deck constructions.



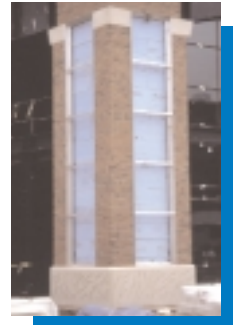
SHG Incorporated selected STYROFOAM brand insulation as the insulation material of choice for Comerica Park in Detroit.

“STYROFOAM brand insulation was specified based on the variety of products offered to meet specific requirements,” said Thomas Winkeljohn, AIA, project architect of SHG. The cavitywall construction used 2" of STYROFOAM CAVITYMATE® Plus brand insulation. “We selected it based on past experience with its long-term performance,” he said. STYROFOAM CAVITYMATE Plus brand insulation offers an R-value of 5 per inch and a compressive strength of 25 psi. It also features a convenient 16" width, allowing the boards to fit directly between wall ties.

More than 500,000 board feet of STYROFOAM PLAZAMATE® brand insulation was used in the plaza deck construction. A layer of 2"-thick insulation was installed. STYROFOAM PLAZAMATE brand insulation offers an R-value of 5 per inch and a high compressive strength of 60 psi, providing excellent durability.

SHG, a full-service architectural and engineering firm that was established in 1853 and has offices worldwide, specifies STYROFOAM brand insulation often. “We regularly specify STYROFOAM brand products,” Winkeljohn said. “We have found that it performs well over the long term. The technical service reps are very responsive.”

Comerica Park opened this spring for its first home game of the 2000 baseball season. With SHG and STYROFOAM brand insulation, the ballpark is sure to score a home run with fans.



STYROFOAM CAVITYMATE Plus brand insulation, shown here at Comerica Park, offers superior moisture resistance, durability and compressive strength.

SAFECO Field

Construction began on SAFECO Field, the new home of the Seattle Mariners, in March 1997. The \$517.6-million ballpark has a classic ballpark design with modern amenities and services. It features a brick façade, a 47,000 seating capacity and a retractable roof. Another feature that is not so visible is the STYROFOAM brand insulation used in the wall and plaza deck constructions.

Fairweather Masonry of Bellevue, Wash., served as the masonry contractor and installed about 35,000 board feet of STYROFOAM brand insulation on the project. “We installed 3"-thick insulation boards of STYROFOAM brand Square Edge insulation in the structural brick columns at the heated areas,” said Monty Fairweather, vice president of Fairweather Masonry. With an R-value of 5 per inch, STYROFOAM brand Square Edge provides long-lasting thermal performance. In addition, a single layer of 3"-thick STYROFOAM PLAZAMATE brand insulation was installed by Fairweather Masonry in the plaza deck construction.

With more than 30 years in the business and specializing in all aspects of masonry, Fairweather said the STYROFOAM brand insulation was a fine product for the job. “It was easy to cut and easy to install,” he said. “We will be sure to use the Dow insulation again.”

SAFECO Field opened for its first game on July 15, 1999, following the '99 All-Star break. The Mariners finished its season with a 23-19 record at SAFECO Field and launched 47 home runs out of the park that is insulated with STYROFOAM brand insulation.

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**STYROFOAM brand products are manufactured with HCFC blowing agents which have ozone depletion potentials that are 93.5 percent less than standard CFC blowing agents.

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