

Wasa AG, 64293 Darmstadt, Germany

Even after years, the lightweight for large forces is still just as impressive as with the first cycle

High-performance plastic meets inexpensive softwood board in the Wasa Woodplast® production board. The result is a product that meets very high demands. Wasa Woodplast convinces customers all over the world with its extremely impact-resistant and break-proof polyurethane coating. The result is a high flexural strength and thus a production board that is in no way inferior to a hardwood board – but without the risk of bleeding, swelling or the formation of joints. One of the customers that have placed their trust in Wasa Woodplast for years is the Kamal company from Poland.

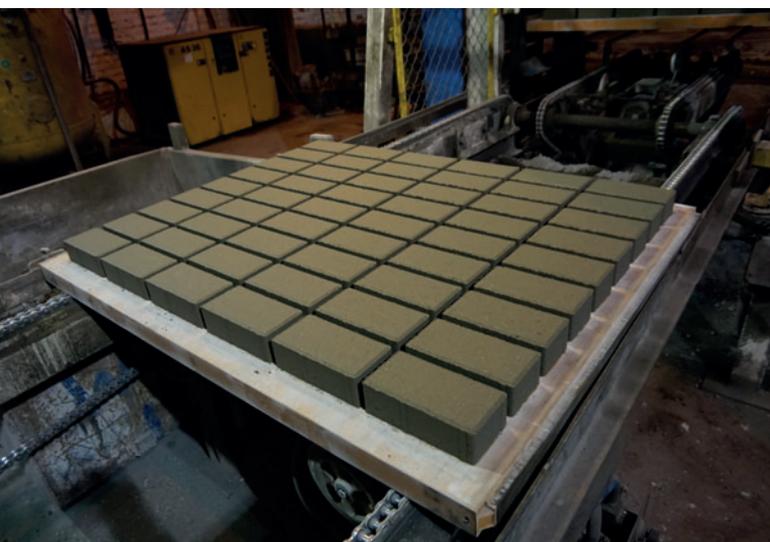
Kamal Sp. z o.o. was founded in 1989 and operates five pre-cast plants in Rypin, Barczewo, Pakość, Krojany and Szczecin as well as a gravel pit in Radziki Duże. A total of six production facilities are operated in the five concrete plants, which are equipped with modern production technology, and high quality raw materials are processed.

Kamal is well set-up with a broad range of products. These include concrete pavers, kerbstones, grass pavers, masonry blocks, fencing elements and gutters for road construction. A total of two washout machines, two sandblasting plants, a sur-



Kamal's head office with adjoining show garden

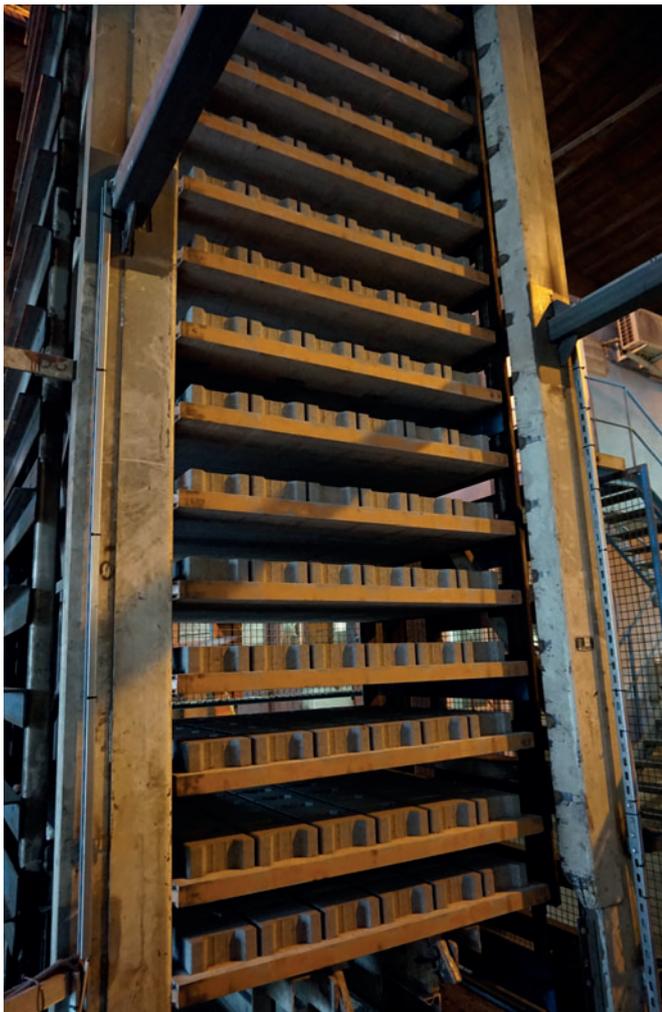
face miller and an aging plant are available for the finishing of the concrete products. 100,000 tonnes of cement are processed annually in three-shift operation.



According to Kamal the transition to the new production boards was especially noticeable in the production of concrete pavers. A considerable increase in quality has been found here.



Kamal's product range also includes large slabs measuring up to 1,000 x 1,200 mm in thicknesses up to 250 mm, for whose production the jointless Woodplast production board is very well suited.



As a result of the now shorter compaction time, the performance capability of the concrete block manufacturing has also increased.

Kamal's main market is in the north of Poland. The customers are mainly construction companies and public sector clients. The products are also distributed through wholesalers. Kamal has demonstrated its capabilities in numerous large-scale projects. For instance, 240,000 sq. metres of concrete pavers were produced for the new container port in Danzig; for the Baltic Arena it was 80,000 sq. metres of refined concrete pavers.

Polyurethane-coated production boards replace softwood boards

In search of a new, high-quality and durable production board for the production of concrete goods, Kamal contacted Wasa in 2014. Wasa was well known to Kamal as a reliable partner in the worldwide concrete industry that offers appropriate high-quality products to suit the customer's individual requirements.

Kamal showed particular interest in the Wasa Woodplast - a polyurethane-coated wooden board that has plugged the gap at Wasa created by the discontinuation in 2010 of the hardwood boards that had been very popular for decades. One of the reasons for this was environmental protection and the other was the constantly deteriorating availability of the raw materials on economically interesting terms.

Impact-resistant, break-proof and rigid

The Wasa Woodplast is a production board with a core of solid pinewood and a highly wear-resistant polyurethane coating. On the short sides, additional galvanised steel C-profiles protect the boards from possible damage in the board magazine. The coating makes a jointless board surface possible guaranteeing flawless stone undersides.

With service lives from eight to ten years, coated boards are in the range formerly offered by hardwood boards. In terms of price, they also occupy ranges comparable to the former yellow balau and bongossi production boards.

Wasa uses exclusively certified renewable raw materials for the softwood cores of the Woodplast boards.

Convincing test phase

Kamal ordered a few test production boards of the type Woodplast and ran them in production. Shortly after the start of the test they were certain they had found a suitable production board in the Woodplast.

Kamal had previously used exclusively softwood boards for its production on one of the concrete block making machines. The boards had to be replaced every three years in order to obtain satisfactory products at all times. With Woodplast that is no longer necessary, because after three years of use the Woodplast still shows no reduction in the vibration transmission and the compaction quality is still the same as day one.



Wasa Woodplast with a core of solid pinewood and a 2.5 mm-thick polyurethane coating. Additional galvanized steel C-profiles on the short sides protect the boards against possible damage.

"The replacement of the softwood boards always caused problems. Firstly because the old production boards had to be disposed of and secondly because the machine parameters of the production equipment had to be adapted laboriously to the new production boards until the products met the high quality standards again", says the vice-president of Kamal's board of directors, Mr Tadeusz Grupa, describing the problems associated with changing to new production boards.

Expectations met

Today, Kamal can say in summary that they took the right step in investing in the Woodplast production boards.

The goals they had set were all attained. In the production of split block blanks, for example, a constantly high compaction quality has been reached; there is virtually no more scrap. According to Kamal the transition to the new production boards is especially noticeable in the production of concrete pavers. A considerable increase in quality has been found here.

"After three years the visible wear is not even slightly comparable to the softwood boards. The few cases of damage to one or two of the Woodplast boards are not due to normal wear and tear in running production, but to mechanical faults in the concrete block making machine. And this damage is easy to repair with the service kit supplied by Wasa", say the very satisfied Polish concrete block experts.

The transition to Woodplast has not only brought about an increase in product quality, however; the new production boards are also having a beneficial effect on the production parameters and concrete recipes. As a result of the now shorter compaction time, the performance capability of the concrete block manufacturing has also increased.

Wasa service

Kamal was also very satisfied with Wasa's service. Wasa has provided many good and helpful suggestions, which have been incorporated into daily production, and Wasa still maintains a close partnership with the Polish company even after the purchase of the Woodplast boards. A Wasa technician comes around once a year to take a look at the production and to assist with possible improvement potentials. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION



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Wasa autumn festival

Wasa produces 220,000 production boards per year. Along with the Wasa Softwood board for simpler requirements and tasks, three further, completely different high-performance production boards are available in the Wasa Tecboard, the Wasa Uniplast Ultra and the Wasa Woodplast. 80% of the production boards currently manufactured by Wasa are of the type Wasa Uniplast Ultra - a further development of the Wasa Uniplast, with which Wasa has held its own in the market very successfully for 27 years now. Particular attention was paid to this anniversary at the Wasa autumn festival, which took place on 12 September at the production plant in Neubrunn. The celebration took place in a new two-aisle production hall, the latest extension to the Neubrunn site.

In his welcoming speech Mr Matthias Bechthold, CEO of Wasa AG, was able to present an impressive figure: the solid plastic Wasa Uniplast board, on whose success the present-day Wasa AG is based, has been sold over 4 million times in the past 27 years. However, Wasa is also increasingly gaining customers with the still very young business area of wetcast moulds. Wasa has already reached seven-digit turnover figures with the wetcast moulds.



Around 125 guests from home and abroad took up the invitation to the autumn festival in Neubrunn



Welcoming speech by Mr Matthias Bechthold, CEO of Wasa AG



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Around 125 guests from Europe, the USA, Canada, the Emirates, Israel, Russia and other countries took up the invitation to the autumn festival in Neubrunn. Among the guests were long-standing customers with whom Wasa has maintained customer relations for over 30 years.

Following the official welcoming, the guests were taken in small groups on a guided tour through the production halls with production in progress. The guided tour took in the manufacture of the various production boards, which is accommodated in several halls, the grinding machine for the reconditioning of older production boards and the manufacture of the wetcast moulds. The participants got interesting insights into a modern production plant, which manufactures this impressive number of production boards round the clock in three-shift operation, 365 days a year.

That was followed by an inspection of the production facility at a long-standing Wasa customer. FC Nüdling has been using Wasa Uniplast production boards at its Fambach location for 19 years. The boards have been ground twice during this period, are still in impressive condition and are used daily in production.

Dr Steffen Mothes, head of production and technology at FC Nüdling, and plant manager Mr Walter Gutermuth guided the guests through the production facility at the plant in Fambach. The interesting and entertaining tour was visibly well received by the guests.

Afterwards the guests were taken back to the Wasa site in Neubrunn, where culinary delicacies and interesting conversations in a sociable atmosphere awaited the guests.



One of the stations of the guided tour of the production halls was the manufacture of the wetcast moulds



Guided tour through the FC Nüdling plant in Fambach

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