

Beach Prisms answer to reducing shoreline erosion?

Concrete Beach Prisms can be the answer to the age-old challenge of shoreline erosion, according to a spokesperson for Smith-Midland Corp. of Midland, Va.

After 18 years of product testing at more than 20 sites on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers, Smith-Midland is now offering Beach Prisms for sale and installation.

"Our experience has proven that Beach Prisms either slow the rate of shore erosion, stop erosion or reverse erosion by replenishing sand in front of and behind the Prisms," Ashley Smith, vice president for sales and marketing, said.

Beach Prisms are permeable, precast concrete products that work by reducing the amount of energy in incoming waves before the waves reach the shoreline. Waves pass through the specially designed slots in the triangular 3- or 4-foot-tall, 10-foot-long Beach Prisms.

According to Smith, the success of a Beach Prisms installation is dependent on the prevailing wind in relation to the shoreline, the tides, the fetch and the availability of sand in the surf. Beach Prisms are for river- and bay-front property owners who want an alternative to traditional armor stone, or groins and jetties. Beach Prisms are jointly permitted by state and federal agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources and the



Picture of Terrapin Nature Area in 2004. Only 16 inches of the 4 feet in height of the Beach Prisms is visible, due to sand accretion.

Army Corps of Engineers.

An engineering study by Lane Engineering Inc. of Centreville, Md. was conducted at the Terrapin Nature Area on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, about one-half mile north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge in Queen Anne's County. The installation survived Hurricane Isabel with only minor Beach Prisms dislocation.

Easi-Set Industries plans to license Beach

Prisms to precast concrete producers worldwide. Easi-Set Industries, a wholly owned subsidiary of Smith-Midland Corp., licenses the production of Smith-Midland developed products to precasters in 23 states and eight foreign countries, with a total of 43 licensed contracts currently in force. For more information, call 540-439-3266 or see smithmidland.com or beachprisms.com. **CM**

Hallmark unveils Vivendi surfaces for countertops

Hallmark Building Supplies Inc. has introduced a new premium countertop option, Vivendi concrete surfaces. Concrete is one of the latest trends for countertop materials in the marketplace.

Vivendi concrete surfaces offer the flexibility to create a truly unique surface. Every project requires a custom mold and is poured to the customer's specification.

There are 17 standard colors of Vivendi sorted by three series of finishes: earth, sand and stone. Buyers, when choosing this surface, also have the ability to create a customized color. Items such as tiles, golf tees, coins, colored stones, etc. can be added to the concrete to create a "one of a kind" work of art. Over time, Vivendi will acquire a natural patina, making the surface even more distinctive.

Vivendi concrete surfaces are versatile in their application: kitchen and/or bath countertops, bar tops, desktops, fireplace surrounds, outdoor kitchens and more. Vivendi is offered through a network of trained installers and is backed by a one-year-installed warranty against cracking and fading. Two styles of vessel bowls are also available in standard and custom colors of Vivendi.

For more information, contact Lisa Gillstrom, product manager, by calling 262-408-4246 or by e-mailing Lisa@Hillmark.com. **CM**