

MARKET

for composite solutions

VISION

CONSUMER

Transforming residential oil tank manufacturing with Unifilo[®] preforms

Dominated by steel tanks for decades, composite replacements redefine design while better protecting the environment and slashing part weight for easier installation and maintenance.

Eager to meet spreading legislation banning the use of steel tanks, Canada-based and Owens Corning customer Aylward Fibreglass sought to improve the design, durability and performance of residential heating oil tanks.

Strong, consistent and efficient solution for tanks

Adoption of a closed mold manufacturing solution with the use of continuous filament mat (CFM) preforms - made by Italy-based Brandolph, a European leader in the preforming market - led to higher consistency and increased productivity.

To support this process development, Owens Corning developed a new grade of thermoformable CFM - Unifilo[®] S764 - which provides excellent surface finish (for good aesthetics) and high permeability to enhance resin flow during molding process.

"This allowed us to manufacture a consistently stronger, safer, tank with uniform wall thickness and pleasing aesthetics and which passed all required pressure tests," said Brian Bower, Area Sales Manager, Owens Corning, North America.

“Not only did Owens Corning’s Unifilo[®] preform system give exactly what we required to increase our customer’s productivity, it also provides a tough and invaluable environmental solution, which is why the new tanks come with a 30-year no-leak warranty.”

The switch to preforms and the resulting reduction in resin use also helped cut the weight of the tank by 50 percent when compared with steel which offers easier maneuverability, thereby lowering shipping costs and the risk of injury during installation. Potential markets include Canada and North America where steel heating oil tanks provide legitimate environmental concerns to government, insurance companies and homeowners.

**www.aylwardfibreglass.com and www.brandolph.it
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