

CASE STUDY

HOW COLUMN PROTECTORS INCREASED WAREHOUSE SAFETY



CUSTOMER:

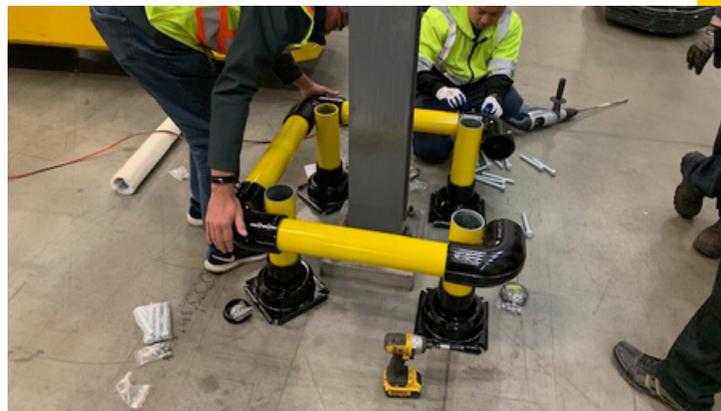
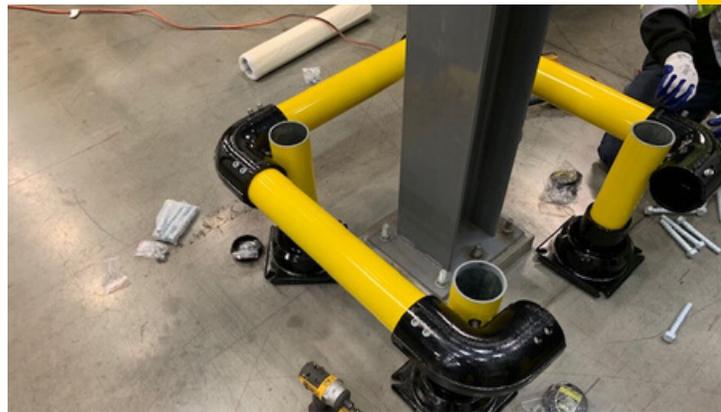
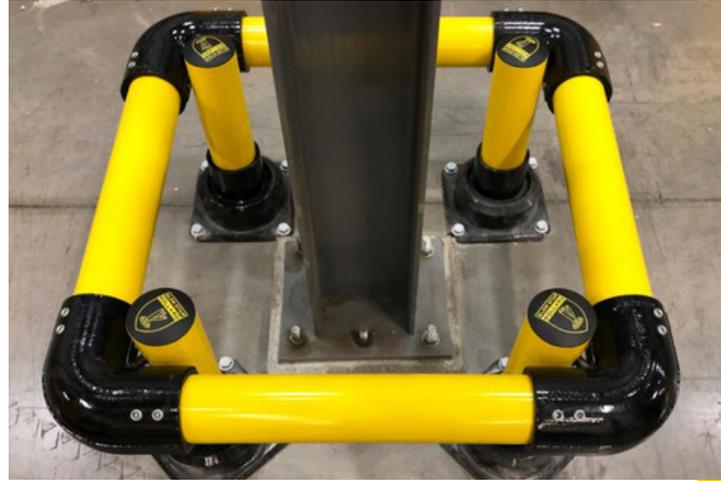
Large MidWest Grocery Chain

SITUATION:

It's common to see plastic column wraps in warehouses to protect their columns from forklift damage, but they can often create more problems than they solve. Plastic column wraps only slightly cushion the impact. They're prone to cracking, and when this happens, they leave your column vulnerable. Their openings are like magnets for litter and debris, an unwelcome sight in a food storage facility. Also, since column wraps completely cover the base of the column, they hide the damage caused by forklifts. When columns fail or are impacted, the entire structural integrity of the building is can be compromised. When the plastic column wraps break, three issues arise: Expense First, they're costly to replace. Before implementing a better solution, the grocery store chain was spending \$600 per column wrap and continually replacing them. W, with a replacement costs for all 51 columns at just over \$30,000. Cleanliness The second issue is that food or garbage can easily become trapped in the crevices of the broken column wraps. Employees would also use the hollow gaps in the plastic wraps as trash bins. This is a cleanliness issue for food storage facilities, which is why the grocery chain made it a point to replace the broken wraps as soon as possible. Safety And Finally, column wraps make it impossible to tell if the column has been damaged. You can't inspect the column until you remove the column wrap, and if the columns become compromised, it could ultimately impact the structural integrity of the building.

SOLUTION:

The grocery chain partnered with SlowStop to find a more permanent solution to preserving their columns and save money in the process. SlowStop's steel rebounding column protectors provided an optimal solution that avoids costly replacements without compromising safety or cleanliness. Fifty-one SlowStop Column Protectors were installed, each in about an hour, and the company started reaping the benefits immediately. And Even though each guard cost more than double the plastic wraps, the grocery chain will save money in the long run by not having to replace broken plastic column wraps, eliminating cleaning issues, and providing greater overall safety. Though column protectors are no replacement for proper forklift training and safety, they do provide an extra defense in the event of accidental impact. When warehouses can go the extra mile to protect their assets, they have a much better chance of creating a safe, functional environment for their employees and the company at large.



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