

Firestone Specialty Products Provides Aquaculture Professionals With An Outstanding Geomembrane Option

For more than 10 years, Firestone Specialty Products has been involved in a myriad of aquaculture installations featuring Firestone PondGard EPDM Geomembrane throughout the world. Developed by the premier name in rubber polymer technology and innovation, PondGard offers a high-quality, durable, and user-friendly option for aquaculture professionals.

PondGard provides low application costs, ease and speed of installation and is beneficial to contractors working in remote areas because there is no need for utilities for thermal welding, providing a cost savings. PondGard geomembranes are also available in a variety of sizes to suit the needs of all project sizes and reduce field seaming.

With outstanding resilience to UV rays, exceptional weathering characteristics, and superior puncture and tear resistance, Firestone PondGard geomembranes sustain the health and beauty of aquaculture projects and provide superior resistance to microbial and algae attack. PondGard also provides lay flat and conformance characteristics, no flap seams and little to no maintenance once installed. PondGard is also specially formulated to be used safely in the presence of fish and plant life.

Recently, PondGard was installed at the Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center (Dexter NFH&TC) in Dexter, N.M. Faced with the possibility of losing up to 3,000 gallons of water per day in each of its 25 threatened and endangered fish species holding ponds, Dexter NFH&TC wanted to install a cost-effective lining material with excellent lay flat characteristics to prevent wrinkling.



Officials at Dexter NFH&TC selected an EPDM liner because they wanted a lining material with excellent lay flat characteristics to prevent wrinkling and ensure fish safety.

“Many of our holding ponds contain tiny fry or fingerling fish that can easily get trapped in a wrinkled pond geomembrane,” said Manuel Ulibarri, center director, Dexter NFH&TC. “Our original plan had been to leave these new



ponds unlined because our experience with lining materials was that they wrinkle easily and that's a threat to our fingerlings."

His search led him to visit friends who work for a large warm water fish hatchery in San Marcos, Texas, and who were in the middle of a large relining project using an unreinforced PondGard EPDM Geomembrane from Firestone Specialty Products Company. "I really liked what I saw and chose to use the same product at Dexter. The only thing we did differently was select the scrim-reinforced option, because it enhanced durability," Ulibarri said.

Using 10-foot-wide panels of PondGard, the crew deployed the material and taped all the seams at a rate of one pond per day, with each pond being 10,000 square feet, or approximately ¼-acre in size. The 200-foot-long rolls were cut as needed to fit each pond.

"Watching the EPDM being rolled out and moved into place, I knew we had selected the right product for our fish," said Ulibarri. "Once all the seams were taped and the edges were secured into the trenches around the perimeter of the ponds, there was not a wrinkle to be found. This is so important to our operation."

Another unique characteristic of PondGard is that it can be used in not only fresh water applications, but also in saltwater applications. In two recent fish hatchery installations in Florida and Texas, sea water from the Gulf of Mexico was used in the ponds. Products such as High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) become un-repairable after two to three years in salt water applications due to oxidation of the material expedited by the salt. The repair-ability of PondGard made it the membrane of choice for these projects.

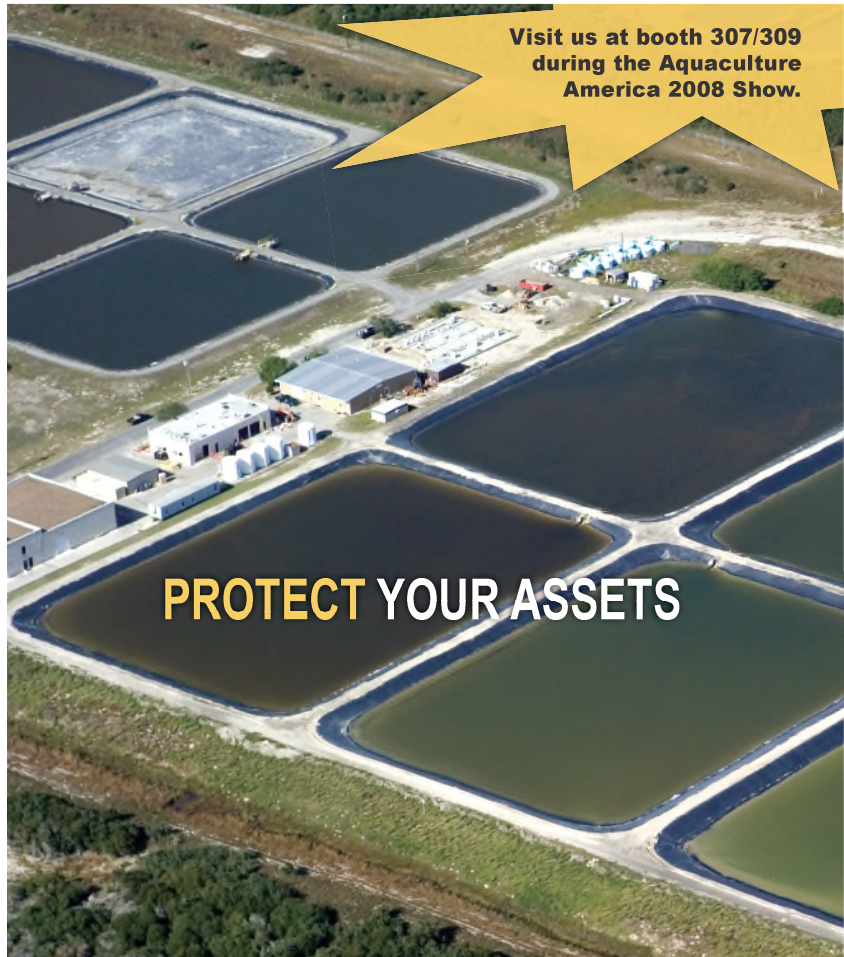
In keeping with Firestone's commitment to provide eco-friendly, quality products, PondGard geomembrane is manufactured at a facility that has been certified to both the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management Standard, which recognizes the quality process, and also to the ISO 14001:2004 Environmental Management Standard.

Firestone provides aquaculture professionals with unmatched technical,

logistic and design support. With more than 70 years of experience combined, Firestone representatives are on hand to answer all technical questions. Firestone also offers assistance to engineers and designers with specifications, details and technical information. To assist aquaculture professionals during the bid process, Firestone provides qualified trained approved applicators with panel layouts and bill of materials.

In addition to impeccable service, Firestone is also committed to providing unsurpassed product availability. With a worldwide network of distributors and job site delivery available for the commercial and industrial markets, Firestone provides aquaculture professionals with outstanding products and services.

For more information about Firestone Specialty Products, please visit our Web site at www.firestonesp.com.



Firestone Specialty Products manufactures high-quality, durable EPDM and reinforced polypropylene geomembranes that offer an array of benefits to aquaculture producers.

- Membrane's lay flat characteristics minimize fingerling loss
- Prevent water leakage
- Increased stability of oxygen content
- Increased precision for medication
- Better control at feeding time
- Avoid contamination from the subgrade
- Easy to install and repair, when necessary



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