

# Frank Mercer: making plastic recycling a fact not a dream



A new damp proofing course made almost entirely from post consumer recycled material has been unveiled to the public, with support from Valpak.

Toughcourse Damp Proof Course, a product developed by Bolton-based plastic reprocessor Frank Mercer and Sons, was launched by Bolton MP Ruth Kelly at a ceremony in December.

*“I am very pleased to launch this new product,” commented Ruth Kelly, “I have seen Frank Mercer and Sons develop over the years, employing more people from the local community, and making a significant contribution to the recycling industry.”*

The launch follows the development over the past five years of Toughsheet TM, Damp Proof Membrane, which is certified by the British Board of Agreement and PIFA. A total of 98% of the product is made from recycled PE film. The BBA stated that it out-performed virgin material alternatives in their tests.

In a WRAP report on the use of recyclates in damp proofing membranes, Toughsheet was highly recommended. The report attributes the success of Toughsheet to a combination of high quality recycled feedstock and effective use of stabilisers which are often under-utilised where virgin material is used. Toughcourse TM Damp Proof Course is a natural progression from Toughsheet and has taken two years of research and development.

Doug Mercer from Frank Mercer and Sons Ltd, commented:

*“We are very proud to increase our product range with Toughcourse, using similar technology to Toughsheet but enabling us to use lower grade packaging waste not suitable for film blowing. We are pleased to have the support of Bolton MP Ruth Kelly to launch this product on the market. Toughsheet and Toughcourse are a real success story for the recycling industry.*

*We would like to state that without the help of the PRN system and our relationship with Valpak we would not have put the investment into research and development and machinery that enabled us to achieve these results.”*

Valpak Chief Executive Steve Gough added:

*“We are delighted to have been able to give Frank Mercer and Sons the support to develop this successful product. As the UK faces ever-increasing recycling targets, products such as Toughsheet are vital to develop alternative end markets for materials.”*

