

Profiles with a signal effect

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What good are new trashcans if they're difficult to recognize? The City of Vienna Waste Management Department has asked itself this question and has supplied the answer with its Clean City campaign. Part of the campaign involves setting up approximately 15,000 public "Mistkübel" – as trashcans are called in Vienna – that feature attractive colors to encourage city residents to make frequent use of them. A key design element is the fluorescent orange polyurethane profile from Angst+Pfister that trims the edges of the trashcan openings.

In a study comparing the cleanliness of European cities, Vienna comes in second place behind Riga. But Municipal Department 48 of the City of Vienna, which is responsible for waste management and street cleaning, does not wish to rest on its laurels, as evidenced by its Clean City campaign. Vienna has allocated five million euros to this project. Within the framework of the Clean City campaign, additional street cleaning personnel were hired and the number of public trashcans was increased.

Stimulating colors

The objective of this campaign is to encourage the residents of Vienna to make their own contribution to a cleaner city. In order to make the trashcans easier to recognize for the Viennese, all of the 15,000 "Mistkübel" are being distinctively marked with colorful accents in fluorescent orange by means of a polyurethane profile that trims the edges of the openings and simultaneously protects against injuries.



Edge protection profiles safeguard against injuries.

Technical challenges

The specialists at Angst+Pfister were called in to help construct the trashcans. A number of challenging problems needed to be solved with regard to construction and materials. The tough deployment conditions in public spaces amid direct exposure to wind, weather, cold, heat and sun rays posed requirements that needed to be met by the profiles' material quality, including:

- resistance to ozone and weathering;
- resistance to abrasion;
- reliable fastening to the edge with a durable clamping effect.

In spite of the good clamping effect, the severe strains placed on the trashcans in everyday use made it necessary to additionally glue the profile to the container.

Further specifications for the edge protection profiles:

- easy mountability;
- delivery of ready-to-mount profiles as finished profile rings or cut to measure;
- orange color from the standardized RAL color palette.

The different trashcan models and the varying and, in some cases, very complex contours of the opening presented a particularly difficult challenge. Since no design drawings of the trashcans were available, the specialists at Angst+Pfister had to measure the dimensions and shape of the contours of the trashcans. Occasionally, very small bending radii had to be taken into account when constructing the profiles. In one case, it was even necessary to make recessed notches in the material on the inside of the bending section of the profile.

The Angst+Pfister specialists opted to use thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU), which meets the aforementioned material requirements. TPU is also easy to dye and weld. The former attribute was essential for the application at hand in view of the paramount importance of the color effect of the edge protection profiles, and the latter attribute was necessary for manufacturing the welded profile rings.

Successful collaboration

The city of Vienna chose Angst+Pfister because all requirements were optimally met and Angst+Pfister was capable of quickly supplying a solution. In addition to the challenges with regard to materials and construction, the project had to be completed under enormous time pressure. Since the marketing department of the City of Vienna wanted to deploy trashcans trimmed with the profiles at a very early stage of the project to advertise the Clean City campaign, Angst+Pfister had to make an initial partial delivery on extremely short notice. Close collaboration based on mutual trust between the client and Angst+Pfister turned the ambitious project into a success. Meanwhile, practically all of the public trashcans in Vienna are now equipped with edge protection profiles from Angst+Pfister. The profiles are real eye-catchers.



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You too can make use of our extensive applications expertise. Request a consultation with our profile specialists.

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