



Contractor achieves smooth, uniform look with Microlite® White PSK Duct Wrap

Sometimes, the aesthetics really matter. And when you want a clean, streamlined look in a building, Microlite® White PSK duct wrap is just the thing.

It's what Phoenix Insulation used on a clean room project in Woodlands, Texas, for a medical supply manufacturer. In keeping with the atmosphere of the clean room, about 80-by-80 feet in size, the contractor specified that the ductwork in the room be wrapped to match the room and provide a uniform look throughout.

Johns Manville's Microlite White PSK Formaldehyde-free™ duct wrap was Phoenix Insulation's choice, along with the matching White PSK seaming tape. Daniel Grein, Vice President of the company and co-owner with his brother, Jared (who also serves as President), said he prefers JM's wrap to competitors.

"The JM PSK wrap definitely looks superior to everyone else's product," Grein said. "I think it fluffs out and has less wrinkles, from what I've seen of others, and some are too glossy. I like the way JM doesn't have such a glossy look."

The Microlite White PSK wrap offers thermal performance and condensation control in a lightweight, blanket-type insulation, with the white PSK facing. JM makes the PSK wrap in both black and white solely for aesthetics, as more and more buildings have open ceilings with exposed ductwork. Then contractors have a choice of colors to help ducts blend with their surroundings.

"It's all about the aesthetics," Grein said. "That's what they were going for in this application, to have it pleasant to look at and not be a shiny sore thumb sticking out. Generally everything in the room is white, so the White PSK wrap was great."

PRODUCT
Microlite® White PSK Duct Wrap

CONTRACTOR
Phoenix Insulation

LOCATION
Clean Room Project
Woodlands, TX



Some of the ducts on the Woodlands project are extremely large, with the biggest being about 120 inches across the bottom and about 40 inches deep. Grein said the room has a lot of air being brought in and pushed out. Grein's crew had to rent a large lift because the duct work is about 36 feet up in the air, so working off the lift to wrap the ducts was an extra challenge.

He noted that using the matching seaming tape really brought the project together and made it look great.

"You've got to use the seam tape. You'd be doing an injustice without it," he said.

Phoenix Insulation got the project while working in conjunction with LMN Mechanical, their biggest customer, who bid on the job. Because the wrap was already specified, Grein said they ordered product right away in case there was a longer lead time. They received about half of the wrap to start and then ordered the remainder still needed.

Grein's small crew said they were pleased with how well the duct wrap adhered. They used about 100 rolls of the PSK wrap, and 40 rolls of Microlite FSK duct wrap for the ducts that were above the ceiling and not visible in the clean room.

A common question JM receives is whether duct wrap can be painted (to match an aesthetic). Painting voids the warranty, since JM cannot verify that the paint would meet the 25/50 fire rating specs. This is why JM created the black and white varieties of wrap.

PHOENIX INSULATION

Phoenix Insulation is based in Houston and services the surrounding areas. Grein said about 95 percent of their work is commercial, with occasional light industrial work. The company employs about 85 people and often uses JM insulation.

