

SYNERGY Soft Touch Foams Protect Ancient Weapons

King's Lynn, England, has preserved several priceless artifacts from its past, including centuries-old weaponry. Often transported to schools, exhibitions and other community functions, the Mayor's sword, forged in the 1300s, and several maces dating back to 1711, require extreme protection from damage.

As King's Lynn also happens to be home to a STYROFOAM* extruded polystyrene insulation manufacturing facility, the mayor approached Dow about developing carrying cases to protect the artifacts. Facility manager Alasdair Hunter turned the "case" over to the Performance Foams division.

Dow Performance Foams Senior Account Manager Johanna Marsh had the perfect solution for the King's Lynn relics: SYNERGY* 1000 soft touch foam, which was specifically developed for



the case insert market. SYNERGY 1000 foam is a strong, resilient, closed-cell product that is fully recyclable. SYNERGY 1000 plank products are produced with non-CFC, non-HCFC and non-HFC blowing agents, utilizing Dow's patented Rapid Release* processing technology.

Once SYNERGY 1000 foam was identified as the product of choice, Johanna contacted Polyformes, a Performance Foams authorized fabricator in Leighton Buzzard, UK. Polyformes Routing Division

specializes in routing case inserts and this was the company's first opportunity to try the new SYNERGY foam product. Paul Howell, business manager for the Polyformes Routing Division, took on the project personally.

"SYNERGY 1000 foam is soft to the touch and fabricators like to work with it when routing," Marsh said. "Due to its small cell size, SYNERGY 1000 foam does not create dust particles when a shape is being routed from a plank, so it's a good material to use when producing case inserts."

It was the routing technology and experience at Polyformes, coupled with the non-abrasive protective qualities of SYNERGY 1000 foam that ensured the construction of a high quality carrying case for these five valuable items. Paul Howell visited the mayor's office in King's Lynn on three separate occasions to check the dimensions and to fit the items into the inserts before finishing actual production of the cases. Upon completion of the project, a formal ceremony was held where both Dow and Polyformes representatives presented the carrying cases to the mayor.



The Mayor of King's Lynn was pleased with the Dow and Polyformes solution, as the sword and maces can continue to be enjoyed by local school children without the fear of shipping-related damage. Moreover, the success of this project has led Polyformes to consider SYNERGY 1000 foam as one of its materials of choice for routed case inserts.

Originally developed for the defense, tooling and cosmetic industries, among others, aiding in the preservation of the King's Lynn artifacts serves as yet another example of the versatility of SYNERGY 1000 foam.