

We're happy to cover this one

Manhole covers made of Schulamid® 612 GF 50 from Aareplast AG

Metal is a popular and versatile material with numerous excellent properties. However, in many cases enormous stresses are placed on this substance: it has to exhibit reliable, durable stiffness and strength, as well as chemical resistance, flexibility and corrosion resistance. This is where metal meets its match.

Weakness in harsh conditions

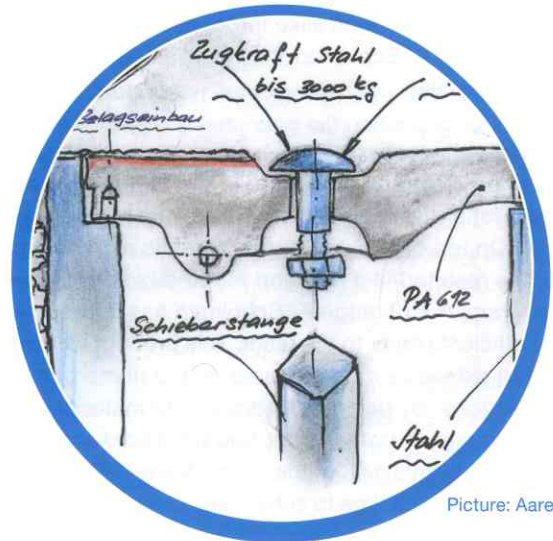
Certain substances and (environmental) factors can seriously affect metal. The use of salt on roads in winter always results in corrosion damage. Removable metal components such as access covers and gratings can be the victims of so-called cold welding if they are exposed to zinc chloride over any length of time. These parts can then only be separated by using a force of up to 3,000 kg. This situation can often prevent access to water shut off valves and in turn can result in large quantities of drinking water being wasted.

The solution comes from Switzerland

The highly innovative Swiss Aareplast AG has joined forces with the Hawle fittings manufacturer to produce access covers for water and gas lines which display the following extreme properties:

- no corrosion bonding
- no cold welding
- low abrasion
- resistance to salt and adverse weather conditions
- no heat distortion during asphalt application (190–200 °C)
- chemical resistance
- low temperature impact resistance

It didn't take long to realise that this profile could only be fulfilled by one hi-tech thermoplastic compound: *Schulamid® 612 GF 50* by A. Schulman. It also has the advantage of injection mould processing!



Picture: Aareplast

Excellence across the board

50 % glass fibre reinforced *Schulamid® 612 GF 50* is an innovative hi-tech product with an impressive range of exceptional properties:

- high zinc chloride resistance
- high dimensional stability
- low moisture absorption
- resistance against heat distortion up to 200 °C
- low temperature impact strength
- easy processing

These qualities make it ideally suited for the manufacture of top quality, resistant manhole covers, which easily survive road resurfacing. These new access covers are already being used successfully in Switzerland.

A welcome side effect: theft prevention

With its patented all-plastic access covers Aareplast AG has not only succeeded in introducing an extraordinary high performance product to the market, but just by chance, it has also contributed significantly to traffic safety on European roads: the ever-rising price of metal has led to a continuing increase in the theft of access covers. Replacing metal with plastic covers will no doubt disappoint many petty criminals and help to boost public resources at the same time! Additional information is available at www.aareplast.com. ■



Manhole cover made of Schulamid® 612 GF 50 compared to metal cover
Picture: Aareplast