

ECOSPOT

THE ADJUSTABLE MORTAR BOARD

 vimeo.com/225837870

GROUP COMPANY

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HEAD OF PROJECT

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**UNITED KINGDOM
AND IRELAND REGION**

Context

When building masonry, bricklayers bend over 1000 to 2000 times a day to scoop up mortar from a plywood spot board. The board typically rests on a stack of the bricks being laid. This repetitive movement has hardly changed since the invention of brick construction itself. Not only does it usually result in damage to the supporting bricks, leading to waste, but it is also the cause of many muscular-skeletal disorders (MSD) – virtually all bricklayers suffer from back problems at some point in their career.

Description

John Baugh, a former VINCI Construction UK bricklayer, took advantage of his long experience on worksites to develop a simple system that introduces much better working postures. 'Ecospot' is a robust but lightweight plastic mortar board that can be clamped to any vertical scaffolding tube. The bricklayer can move the board up the scaffolding as needed and no longer has to bend over to scoop up the mortar.

Benefits

A scientific study carried out with a group of bricklayers on a VINCI Construction UK site showed that using Ecospot reduced the pressure exerted on the lower back muscles by 84%. By simplifying the operating method, this clever innovation increases productivity by 17% and helps preserve workers' health over the longer term by reducing the number of days of sick leave due to MSDs. Ecospot reduces waste since the bricks are no longer used as a support. To date, 190 Ecospot boards are deployed in the United Kingdom and another 500 should be in use by the end of 2017.

- 1 The bricklayer can modify the positioning of the board to adapt it to his needs.

