

LĒF FARMS, N.H.



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SIKA AT WORK

LĒF FARMS, N.H.

BUILDING TRUST



SIKA FLOORING HELPS LĒF FARMS GROW ITS BUSINESS.

“OUR GOAL WAS TO CREATE A FLOOR THAT WAS CRACK-RESISTANT AND WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY CONTAMINANTS TO EXIST. WE ALSO WANTED A FLOOR THAT HAD A LONG LIFESPAN, AND THIS PARTICULAR FLOOR EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS.”

Giving New Englanders fresh produce within 24 hours of harvest – instead of greens that have spent days in a truck being shipped across country – is the goal of lēf (pronounced leaf) Farms of Loudon, New Hampshire. Lēf Farms recently built a hydroponic greenhouse with fully automated processing, and they were committed to using the highest quality materials that were also durable and exceeded food safety regulations, including the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). With all of these requirements on lēf’s shopping list, it’s no surprise they chose the Sikafloor PurCem polyurethane flooring system.

FDA Food Code 2009 specifies that food establishments must have floors that are “smooth, durable, and easily cleanable”. Sikafloor PurCem is an ultra-heavy duty performance flooring system that easily meets this code and complies with new FSMA rules. PurCem also provides slip resistant textures for wet surfaces, which in this case was important because the facility has a lot of equipment that must be washed down at the end of each shift to maintain a hygienic food-processing environment.

“Our goal was to create a floor that was crack-resistant and would not allow any contaminants to exist,” explained Russ Elkins, facilities manager at Pleasant View Gardens, Inc., Loudon, New Hampshire, the sister company of lēf Farms. “We also wanted a floor that had a long lifespan, and this particular floor exceeded our expectations.”

Wells Restoration of Rowley, Massachusetts, a veteran Sikafloor installer, produced a three-foot by five-foot sample of the Sikafloor PurCem system so that lēf Farms personnel could walk on it and see for themselves how durable the floor was. “This also helped us gain a better understanding of what the customer needed,” said Scott Wells, president of Wells Restoration.

A FRESH APPROACH TO HIGH STANDARDS

The installation took place in July 2016. Wells stated that lēf Farms “was a joy to work with. They gave us free access to the facility without another soul in our way. They did it the right way.”

Project

Lēf Farms
Loudon, New Hampshire

Flooring Contractor

Wells Restoration, LLC
Rowley, Massachusetts

Flooring Systems

Sikafloor® 22NA PurCem® with Sikafloor®
510 LPL topcoat

Project Size

5,000 square feet

Completed

July 2016





Wells Restoration used polyurethane cement technology because it is less sensitive to temperature changes. “This floor was going into an area that was basically a big cooler with a temperature of 35°F, so I knew the urethane cement would meet these environmental conditions the best,” Wells said.

Wells steel-shot blasted the concrete surface to provide the recommended profile for a proper mechanical bond of the flooring materials. Wells then patched saw-cuts and hairline cracks using Sikafloor 265 Flexible Epoxy. They addressed the height of each drain body with epoxy mortar, which was made using Sikafloor 160 Epoxy Mortar System. This would ensure that water would properly flow into drains after the new floor was installed. The following day, the Wells crew of eight people mixed, applied and broadcasted the Sikafloor 22NA PurCem. “The orchestration and timing of each task was key to a successful installation,” Wells explained.

After applying the Sikafloor 22NA at approximately 1/4” thick, the floor needed to be sealed. The owners of lēf Farms chose Sika’s premium seal coat, Sikafloor 510 Polyaspartic Urethane, which will provide them with excellent chemical resistance while producing a superior aesthetic finish. Lēf Farms opted to go with the Oxide Red color to differentiate the packaging area from the storage area.

“Scott Wells was very finicky about the results of each installation stage,” Elkins commented. “You can tell he takes pride in his work, and he has a good group of guys working with him. I would definitely use Wells Restoration again.”

“Wells Restoration did a wonderful job,” remarked Bob LaDue, vice president and COO at lēf Farms. “They had high standards and went the extra distance, and certainly earned our respect. They went beyond our expectations.”

A CLEAN FLOOR WITH NO SLIP UPS

Lēf Farms couldn’t be more pleased with the floor. DJ Grandmaison, sales and marketing manager at lēf Farms said, “The fact that the floor is so easy to clean means we can save time, water, energy and resources. It is holding up extremely well, even though there has been a lot of traffic.”

“The floor is so much more cleanable than other flooring materials,” LaDue stated. “Another nice feature is that they were able to make things flush with the drains, so everything flushes nicely and dries quickly.”

LaDue is also pleased with the anti-slip properties of the floor. “It has zero issues for slip hazards,” he commented.

INVESTING IN FUTURE GROWTH

Lēf Farms hope to invest in Sikafloor PurCem floor systems again as the business expands. “The floor is an easy place for people to skimp on, but we went the other way,” LaDue stated. “It is a step above our competitors and we are very proud of it. We hope to expand in the future, and I assume we would continue on with this flooring system.”

Grandmaison added, “Every person I’ve taken through here has stated they were really impressed that we invested in a floor like that. The farm is always looking toward the future, and I can see us using this when we expand. It is well worth the investment.”