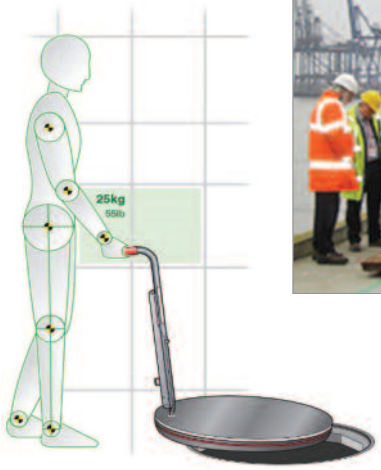
With Fibrelite access covers you've got health & safety covered!

Designed to be a 'fit-and-forget' product, Fibrelite's FRP composite manhole covers and modular trench panels come in all load ratings from A15 to F900 and are maintenance-free, durable and very strong. However, they can also help eliminate a number of common, and often quite serious, health and safety issues?



Best Strength to Weight Ratio

Fibrelite composite access covers are engineered and manufactured here in the UK. Independent testing to BS EN 124 criteria demonstrates that they also surpass the relevant class conditions for deflection under load. This commitment to product excellence means Fibrelite covers have the very best strength to weight ratio available in the market today.

Safer Manual Handling

By definition, the majority of access covers are lifted - sometimes frequently. While traditional metal or concrete covers are heavy and may require specialist equipment, making lifting time-consuming and expensive, composites are different. David Holmes, Fibrelite Technical Director explained

"As well as being lightweight, typically a third of the weight of metal or concrete, our covers are designed for safe lifting, having up to two lifting points for ergonomic lifting handles. Just one or two people can move them quickly and easily without risk of back injury or crushed fingers or toes."

No risk of Lacerations from Rust

Composite covers have an inherent resistance to corrosion, so are an obvious choice where water, wastewater or corrosive liquids are involved. This also makes them ideal where the underground infrastructure requires protection from external corrosive compounds, such as salt. So by choosing a composite cover, you are avoiding the risk of lacerations, slips, trips and potentially serious falls caused by metal or concrete covers rusting or crumbling. As every Health & Safety Manager knows, these constitute the majority of general accidents, so non-slip treads can be moulded into Fibrelite covers during manufacture.

Also independent testing has demonstrated that these covers exceed the advisory regulations even when wet - as Holmes confirmed:

"Our finished covers exceed the minimum slip resistance requirement of BS EN124/PAS26, HA104/09: Part 5 and the UK HSE minimum slip resistance guidelines when tested in accordance with BS EN13036-4:2011. This makes them a safer alternative to concrete or metal whatever the weather conditions."

No risk of Theft

There is no risk of theft with a Fibrelite composite cover, as composites have no resale value in the scrap market - so no dangerous, uncovered holes in the ground. Locks and restraining bolts are also available for added security. And as the covers can be moulded in virtually any colour or colour combination they can be colour-coded to identify specific underground services and ensure the right trench is opened.

Avoiding Electrostatic Discharge

Electrostatic discharge always needs to be properly controlled in the workplace and especially in areas that are also open to the public. Potential electrostatic discharging can be eliminated by using a "fully conductive" composite cover which uses a metalized fibre within the moulding process to achieve electrical continuity across the entire surface of the cover. These covers exceed the surface resistivity requirements of PAS26 and while the standard calls for a maximum value of 1 KΩ/cm² these achieve a value of 0.0144 KΩ/cm²."

Avoiding Hot Metal or Steam Burns

In some industries, such as thermal energy, metal access covers can get very hot as they conduct nearly all the heat below through to their surface. The thermal gradient properties of a composite steam cover significantly reduce the risk of burns as the surface temperature is typically only ever slightly above ambient temperature. In fact, the best high-quality Fibrelite steam covers maintain their cool-to-touch properties and ability to support vehicular loads, even when pushed to a test temperature of 400°F (204°C).

To find out more, please visit www.fibrelite.com.