

Case History: Hamilton Township School District, Hamilton, NJ

Corroded swimming pool bleachers rescued by the Bleacherman

Situation: Hamilton Township School District has three high schools in the school district (Steinert, Nottingham and Hamilton High School West) with indoor swimming pools. All three schools had telescopic bleachers next to the swimming pools, and had suffered corrosion due to the high humidity environment.

The original Safway bleachers in the Steinert High School natatorium were in the worst shape - badly rusted and corroded - because the original understructure was not prepared for a high moisture environment.

In fact, these telescopic bleachers were in such bad shape that part of the original understructure could not be salvaged. (This was replaced by new components manufactured by Evergreen Bleachers.) Rebuilding part of these bleachers made sense, because it allowed the

Bleacherman to save the "4-horse understructure" of the original Safway bleachers - which is stronger and higher quality than the new bleachers available today.

The rebuilt bleachers were upgraded for use in a high moisture area by first sandblasting the understructure. Next one coat of DuPont zinc primer (with 7000 hours salt water resistance) powder coat was applied, plus a second coat of heavy duty powder coating, rated at a minimum of 1000 hours of salt water corrosion resistance.

The original Fir wood was refinished to "as new" condition and re-installed. Then, all the features required to make the bleachers code-compliant, (such as self-storing end safety rails, aisles with P-rails, ADA cut-outs with safety rails, converting to a "closed deck" system, etc.) were installed.



Hamilton Township School District is located in central New Jersey and serves over 1700 students.



Three sections of bleachers were on either side of the indoor swimming pool. (Same configuration at each high school.)



Original five row high telescopic bleachers show the effects of a high-humidity environment and years of heavy use.



Bleachers on both sides of the natatorium were affected. The finish on the wood is completely discolored and worn away in some areas.



When the Bleacherman started to remove the wood, what we found was even worse - a badly corroded understructure on the first row only. The first row understructure was remanufactured - fabricated by the Bleacherman.



Lumber is removed for refinishing, as the first step in dismantling the original bleachers.



Some of the bolts were so rusted, they had to be cut off in order to remove the wood.



Most of the boards have been removed in this picture. Lumber was recycled for use in the new “closed deck” bleachers. The original understructure was salvaged and rebuilt at the Evergreen manufacturing facility.



The Bleacherman crew has one more section of bleachers left to remove in this photo. Note staining of floor below where the bleachers used to be located.



Original understructure (after remanufacturing) is “staged” in position before anchoring to the wall. Note floor has been cleaned before understructure is re-installed.



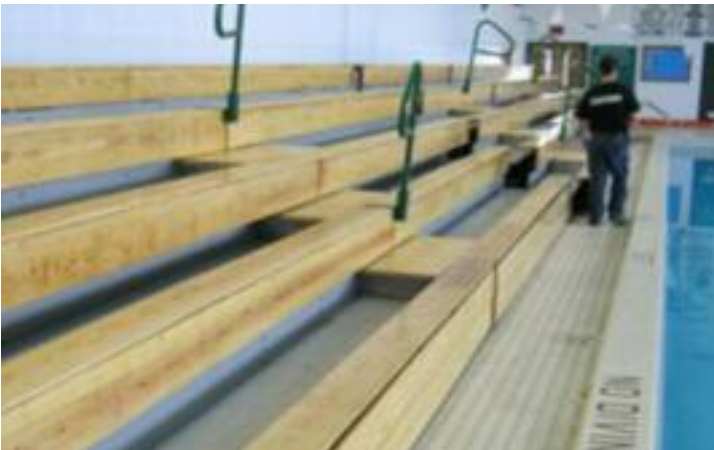
Evergreen Bleacher understructure now anchored to wall. This understructure has been sandblasted, powder coated with special baked-on rust-resistant paint, then powder coated again.



Footboards go on first, as the new bleachers are installed. Heelboards will be attached next. Bleachers are being made code-compliant, meeting closed-deck safety requirements.



Reconditioned Fir wood seats and risers are installed. It's hard to believe this is the same wood that was removed from the original bleachers. They look new again!



P-rails and intermediate steps are installed, another requirement for safety code requirements



ADA cut-out for wheelchair with safety rail and self-storing end safety rails installed. Like the P-rails, they match the school's colors. All painted surfaces received multiple coats of marine-grade coatings to resist moisture.



End view of bleachers with safety rails installed.



Completed bleachers with demountable first step, non-skid on intermediate steps, contrasting color footboards, etc.



Another view of the completed bleachers. Note that the riser boards are three-piece laminated boards, which show the color variation this is normal in this material.



The final touch: adding the Evergreen Bleachers™ label, showing that these bleachers are in a class by themselves, stronger than any new bleacher available today.



Completed bleachers are ready for spectators in the Steinert High School natatorium. The process of remanufacturing (to meet code requirements and protect the bleachers in this high moisture environment) co-mingled the original 4-horse under-structure with new parts. Nothing of value was discarded. The Bleacherman was able to save the school district money (compared to buying new) in this demanding high-moisture environment, AND provide “as new” telescopic bleachers that would last in this difficult application.

When the school district saw the transformation of Steinert High School’s bleachers, they then selected the Bleacherman to refurbish swimming pool bleachers at Nottingham and Hamilton High School West.