



## TILING ON THE RIGHT TRACK

CATEGORY: BEST COMMERCIAL INTERIOR

Perth's public transport system has been dramatically transformed with the opening of the city's first underground stations in mid-October.

Joondalup line passenger trains now run through the CBD tunnels to access the new Perth underground station, located beneath William Street, and the new Esplanade underground station.

According to the Public Transport Authority, 40,000 people a day use the Perth train station and this is forecast to double in the next 25 years.

In order to cope effectively with such high volumes of public foot traffic, and to help prevent and reduce the potential graffiti attacks, self-cleaning Hydrotect tiles from Buchtal were used to cover the walls, columns and sides of the escalators at both underground stations.

Hydrotect-coated surfaces are extremely durable. The surface of the tiles combines two unbeatable advantages: an antibacterial effect and extraordinary easiness of cleaning, which is vital in public spaces that are prone to vandalism.

The antibacterial effect is based on the principle of the photocatalysis. The catalysis is a titanium dioxide coating applied by baking at high temperatures to ensure that the material is firmly bonded to the tile surface, which then reacts to light, oxygen and air humidity. The activated oxygen is capable of decomposing micro-organisms such as e.g. bacteria, fungi, algae, moss or germs.

The tiles also repel dirt and grime and can be easily washed down with water, resulting in reduced cleaning and maintenance costs.

Approximately 930 square metres of tile were installed at the station below William Street, and 151 square metres at the Esplanade underground.

The columns in particular put the skills of the tilers to the test, as the tiles used have a split through the centre and so had to be cut exactly on that split and each one then had to be perfectly aligned by eye.

Because of the nature of the special surface coating, Hydrotect tiles cannot come into contact with silicon, therefore the tile fixer used a non-silicon based mastic.

**PROJECT:**  
Perth Underground Railway Station

**ARCHITECT/DESIGN CONSULTANT:**  
Hassell Spowers

**TILE MANUFACTURER:**  
Buchtal

**TILE RETAILER:**  
Crosby Tiles

**TILE RETAILER/FIXER:**  
Crosby Tiles

**TILE DESCRIPTION:**  
Walls: Buchtal Hydrotect Inagrob series 294 x 94 mm tiles in orange with grey used as a feature

Columns: 240 x 50 mm Hydrotect tiles in white

**ROOMS/AREAS TILED:**  
Station walls, columns and side of escalators

**LOCATION:**  
Perth, WA