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# Number One Poultry safeguarded from terrorist attack

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An upgrade of security at Number One Poultry in the Capital has seen the installation of Armorcoat window safety film, as Brian Sims reports.



By [Brian Sims](#)

Number One Poultry is one of the most distinctive buildings in London. Its unique architectural style provides a key landmark in the Capital's bustling financial district.

Designed by award-winning architect Sir James Stirling, the building plays host to a range of shops and

offices and offers some of the best views of the city from its rooftop.

Like all buildings located in the financial heart of London, Number One Poultry faces an above-average risk of collateral damage from terrorist attacks. Even if - God forbid - a bomb exploded half a kilometre away, the subsequent shockwaves could still shatter windows and send shards of glass flying through the building.

With some 800 staff employed at Number One Poultry, in addition to shoppers, visitors and diners, there could be upwards of 1,000 people in the building at peak times.

Given that there are more than 2,000 square metres of glass used throughout the building, its management team was already fully aware of the risks that flying glass could pose and had installed bomb-proof window film some years ago. However, with the film having reached the end of its useful life, the decision was taken to replace it with a newer, stronger window film.

## **Time to upgrade the window film**

Paul Ellson, the director at Signwise (the Solar Gard dealer and installer that specified and installed the new window film), explained the decision to upgrade it in the first place.

“Window film that’s used to offer protection from bomb blasts faces the most stringent tests and must be replaced every seven to ten years, depending on the manufacturer’s guidelines,” suggested Ellson. “We’d come to the end of the warranty period with the original film, and decided to upgrade using the best available solution on the market. In this instance, it was a Solar Gard Armorcoat seven millimetre clear safety film.”

Solar Gard Armorcoat was chosen because of its reputation as a strong, resilient film that helps protect people and property from the dangers of flying broken glass. Armorcoat safety film works by keeping the dangerous shards of glass together after being shattered by a bomb blast, protecting building occupants as well as passers-by.

Designed specifically for safety and security applications, Armorcoat film has met impact requirements for some of the most stringent tests in the industry and has been field tested for over 20 years. Made from high quality materials such as tough, high-tensile polyester and ultra-strong mounting adhesives, Armorcoat is available in thicknesses ranging from four to 14 millimetres, with thicker films offering the greatest protection.

## **Clear choice to be made**

The film is also optically clear, which means it does not affect the appearance of a building inside or out, allowing maximum natural sunlight through the windows. This was an essential requirement for Number One Poultry.

Richard Wrathmall, the facilities manager at the building, told SMT Online: “The new film had to be perfectly clear so as not to change the look of this iconic building. We had to ensure that the new film would maintain views from within the building, including the amount of natural light that came in. It seemed a tall order until Signwise proposed the Armorcoat film.”

With some 2,000 square metres of old film to be removed, and a similar amount of new film to be installed, this project posed a number of logistical challenges for Signwise.

In explaining why the installation needed to be trouble-free and of minimal distraction to the building occupants, Wrathmall added: “We have some 800 people working in the building at any given time. To disrupt their working environment for even a short period would have been unacceptable, but these safety measures still needed to be implemented.”

Fortunately, Signwise came up with a practical solution. Paul Ellson explained: “We estimated that this project would take the best part of six weeks to complete. We fully understood the potential for disruption from the installation, so we decided to complete it out of normal business hours. Therefore, as far as the office workers were concerned, the entire installation process was, to all intents and purposes, invisible.”

## Installation with minimal disruption

Wrathmall confirms this was the case. "We were able to get the new film installed with minimal disruption and, it's true to say, most of the building occupants never knew their window film had even been changed. It was an impressive job by Signwise."

In conclusion, Wrathmall said: "This installation posed many potential challenges that were solved by the practical approach taken by the installer and the qualities of the window film itself. We have eliminated the risk of flying glass without interrupting our customers or the building occupants, and have done so without any change to the appearance of the building. Clearly, it's a job well done."

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