

Why farmers and pigs are so happy with MIK

MIK flooring has many important advantages making life easier for both, animals and farmers. In the following we are explaining some important facts everyone in the swine business should know:

1. **MIK** flooring is a product of superior quality due to
 - the use of high-quality polypropylene
 - most highly developed production methods without using power gas
 - Masterbatch
 - Quality Control
 - with **MIK** there are no problems with broken panels
2. **MIK** flooring is much cleaner than any other type which is due to the following reasons:
 - optimal distance between slits
 - slits are rounded, which facilitates running-through of the excrements thus ensuring hygienic cleaning of surface and underside
 - due to the rounded edges of **MIK** flooring, the pigs move more on the **MIK** flooring than on any other competitor's floor panel on which pigs often have open, injured feet. Consequently, on MIK flooring much more excrements are pushed through the slits
3. The patented hollow-shaped squares give better steadiness to the sow
 - the sow always stands in the centre of square-shaped subdivisions and she does not try to find support from the edges of the subdivisions
 - the sow has no problems when lying down which considerably reduces the number of crushed pigs
4. The edges of the squares are smoothly rounded which
 - protects the sow from problems with the shoulders
 - prevents teats from bruising or tearing
 - avoids wound or inflamed feet of the baby pigs (if either the sow or the pigs have injuries on their claws, parts of the energy put in by feet will be lost by fever instead of using it for growth)
5. The sow is not able to remove floor panels due to the modular concept of the system. Due to the patented edge design with upper and lower connecting hooks, it is ensured the panels interlock perfectly.
6. **MIK** flooring can be installed very quickly and easily.
7. **MIK** flooring can be installed in crates of any size without loss of material, as the floor panels can be cut at end of one row and the rest can be used for another row.

8. Only little time is spent when cleaning **MIK** flooring hygienically with water or a steam-jet cleaner.
9. Perfect fibre glass support: special riffles provide excellent interlocking, thus avoiding any movement.

From our experience we know that **MIK** flooring will last about 20 - 25 years, we expect an even higher durability. **95 %** of the first **MIK** floor panels, **installed more than 20 years ago**, are still in operation. In case that underneath the sow's front claw one floor panel has suffered a little bit after a period of 10 - 12 years, it can be replaced quickly and easily.

All these advantages taken together will give pig producers the opportunity to achieve better results. Tests in various institutes and farms have shown that with **MIK** flooring at least two more pigs per year can be brought up.

Example:

In 1986, at the University of Gent, Prof. H. van der Heyde conducted feeding tests covering a period of many years – „Plastic compared to steel in the flat deck sector“ – which resulted in an additional growth of the piglets by up to 1 kg in 55 days at the same feeding quantity. If this additional growth is expressed in terms of profit, the calculation shows the following results:

- 4 piglets kept on one sqm, thus an additional growth of 4 kg per sqm.
- 6 generations in one year, thus an additional growth of $6 \times 4 \text{ kg} = \text{approx. } 24 \text{ kg}$ additional growth per sqm in one year.

Result: 24 kg piglet weight produced per sqm results in a profit exceeding the total investment costs for plastic flooring, substructure included, within 2 years.

The reason for the additional growth compared to steel is that the piglets do not lose energy to keep their body in temperature.