

PRESS RELEASE

Fischer plugs the gaps in safety for DIYers, tradesmen

19 March 2019: *The fischer DuoPower nylon expansion fixing plug for fixing cupboards, handrails, and shelving to walls and other surfaces allows DIYers to carry out their work safely and efficiently. "Used correctly, your work will be as safe and solid as industrial projects," Upat Technical Sales Director and Co-Owner **Kerry Kuhlmann** comments.*

As fischer believes in strong, reliable end products that perform according to specification, Kuhlmann urges all end users to ensure they purchase the correct product for the application in hand. "Our DIY end users get the same strength of function as those in industry," he adds. "This means no nasty surprises when fixing handrails to a wall, or robust shelving in a workshop or garage.

"Provided the end user chooses the right fit for their project, especially with fixings, we know we're giving them a product chosen globally for its versatility and safety. Importantly, when people are informed about the quality of the product, they can see the value of spending a bit extra per fixing plug for four times the load-carrying ability," Kuhlmann points out.

Noting that the DuoPower plug has been created for a variety of purposes, Kuhlmann is confident that DIY users who are often not trained in application variances will be using a product in which the incidence of deterioration and plug failure into all building materials such as concrete, brickwork, hollow blocks, dry walling and through chipboard is reduced.

The plug is made from virgin nylon and not plastic to ensure maximum expansion. It does not allow 'creep' by the plastic, with the tendency to move to an area where there is less pressure exerted on it. The result of the 'creep' is that the holding power of the plastic anchors is reduced dramatically over time. Furthermore, nylon has a far higher melting point than plastic, and is unaffected by UV rays, moisture, or temperature changes.

In many dynamic applications, the nylon functions almost like a shock absorber, and expands into the drilled hole to create a solid anchor. This then does not damage or pulverise the brickwork during operational movement, which your typical metal shield anchor, used in dynamic application into brickwork, would do.

This results in a fixing that makes the hole larger, and eventually needs to be replaced. Kuhlmann adds that many leading South African door and gate manufacturers and installers use DuoPower plugs to ensure longevity in products that are constantly used in dynamic situations.

Whether you're a DIYer or a tradesman, the key to achieving maximum stability in your work and avoiding mishaps like falling shelves is to know the product's capabilities. Precise information and handy colour-coding on the product packaging indicates the type of material into which the plugs can be placed. This information is also available on the Upat website. "We encourage end users to familiarise themselves with all of the details before commencing with a project."

Kuhlmann confirms that Upat is "just a phonecall away" for anyone who has questions about the correct application and product specification. "We invite people to phone Upat with any questions, because we understand that there may be serious consequences with a failure at any stage of a project."

While Upat does ensure its distributors are equipped to best advise their customers on correct usage, the company is setting up a centre where clients can enrol their staff in educational sessions where expert knowledge of fischer products can be disseminated to end users.

“With most fischer products carrying European Technical Approvals (ETAs), Upat ensures that the local market has access to the most technically superior and most cost-effective anchoring solutions globally,” Kuhlmann concludes.

Ends

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Notes to the Editor

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About Upat

Upat SA (Pty) Ltd. is a 100% South African owned business that began trading in 1983. From the outset, Upat has been committed to the building industry, supplying not only a range of anchor bolts, but also rotary hammer drilling machines, tungsten-tipped masonry drill bits, powder actuated tools, and allied building and construction products. Upat’s ability to supply a range of top-quality products at market-related prices has resulted in it becoming a market leader in Southern Africa. Upat is proudly the sole Southern African distributor of the fischer range of construction fasteners, the Milwaukee power-tool brand, the AEG power-tool brand and the Stabila range of measuring tools.

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