



Pitch marking is no longer just a case of spraying or painting a straight white line. From the safety of the operator to the responsible disposal of paint containers, local authorities now have a minefield to navigate when it comes to choosing the right product.

On top of this, the consumption of water is also now a top priority: not surprising considering marking one football pitch per week per season would require 400 litres of water if using dilutable paint.

At this year's Saltex exhibition, innovative ways to make water savings were at the forefront of discussion surrounding the future of pitch marking.

Richard Fry, director of marketing at Rigby Taylor, explained: 'Across the country the demand for water is increasing and, in the UK, its availability is unpredictable. It is also becoming more expensive. Water wastage is a very emotive issue and any opportunity to limit the waste of such a valuable resource and introduce such savings would be well received by the electorate. There is little doubt that councils would find it difficult in times of water shortages to introduce hosepipe bans whilst at

Going for the gold

Local authorities must make savings wherever possible, so how can switching to a new line marking system help reduce water consumption, fuel, waste disposal and transport costs? **Laura Sharman** finds out.

the same time not taking the opportunity to save on consumption when such openings become available.'

To address these issues, Rigby Taylor has launched Impact Gold a ready-to-use line marking paint. Using a specifically designed gold nozzle, a football pitch can be over-marked with only one litre per pitch.

'By councils changing from traditional dilutable paints to Impact Gold, savings of over 400 litres of water per football pitch can be made over a 35 week season. On 100 pitches that's over 40,000 litres,' said Fry.

As well as the water savings, the product also provides a range of other benefits for local authorities, as Fry explained: 'With the expected budget cutbacks required over a wide range of departments, the introduction of Impact Gold offers local authorities the opportunity to make savings on a wide range of expenditure, including water consumption, fuel, transport, waste disposal costs and storage. At the same time these savings will also contribute to reducing every council's carbon footprint. With the bag-in-the-box packaging, the outer box is 100% recyclable and the inner plastic liner is simply disposed of with regular waste.'

These benefits were clearly recognised at Saltex, with Impact Gold being awarded the EDGE Saltex Innovation Award in the category 'For design and supply of service and consumables.' The same award will also be made at three other major shows in Belgium, Holland and France, with judges choosing an overall winner at the IOG national Conference in November. ●