

WHATCOM MUSEUM
BELLINGHAM, WA



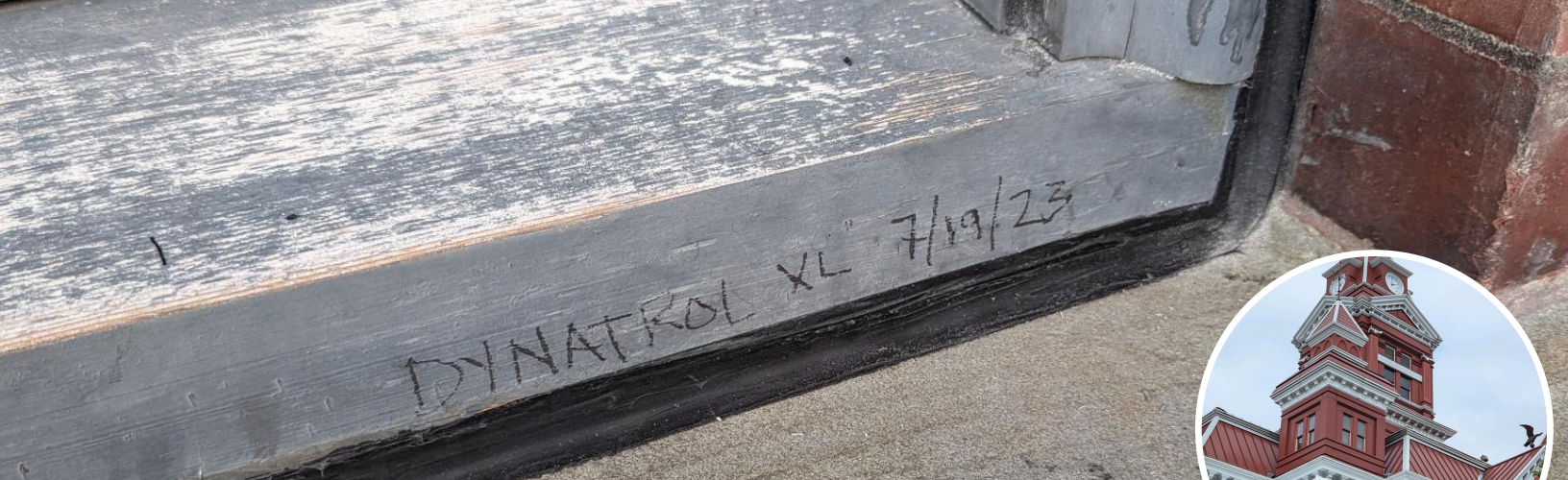
PECORA DYNATROL I-XL HYBRID



The Whatcom Museum is an important cultural institution in Bellingham, offering both historical and contemporary perspectives on the Pacific Northwest. It serves as a hub for the community, providing educational resources and cultural enrichment through its exhibits, programs, and events. The museum consists of three buildings: the Old City Hall, the Lightcatcher building, and the Syre Education Center. Each building offers a unique experience, showcasing various aspects of art and regional history. The museum's collections cover a wide range of topics, including regional art, history, and culture. Exhibits may feature works by local artists, artifacts related to the area's history, and interactive displays designed to engage visitors in exploring the region's heritage.

The story of the Whatcom Museum begins with the Old City Hall building. Constructed in 1892, it served as Bellingham's city hall until 1939. Reflecting Romanesque architecture, it remains one of the oldest municipal buildings in the region. In 1941, the building became home to the Whatcom Museum, showcasing exhibits on local history and culture. Over the years, the museum expanded its offerings and outgrew the Old City Hall space. In 2009, the museum opened the Lightcatcher building, a modern and architecturally striking structure adjacent to the Old City Hall. The Lightcatcher building focuses on contemporary art and features a large translucent wall designed to capture natural light. Visitors to the Whatcom Museum experience a dynamic blend of historical and contemporary perspectives, making it a vital cultural institution in Bellingham.

After years of exposure to the elements and the natural aging process, the windows of the Old City Hall building required replacement. Restoration plays a crucial role in preserving cultural heritage, maintaining architectural integrity, promoting sustainability, supporting economic development, providing educational opportunities,



and strengthening community identity. Successful restoration projects contribute to cultural enrichment and architectural preservation.

As part of the building's restoration, the existing wood windows were rebuilt and repainted. Bear Wood Windows, a contractor based in Lakewood, Washington, removed the previous sealant and recaulked the windows using Pecora Dynatrol® I-XL Hybrid, all while maintaining the historical integrity of the building.

The owners required a sealant that could be painted over. One of the key advantages of Dynatrol® I-XL Hybrid is its paintability, which played a significant role in its selection for the project. Paintability is essential for both functional and aesthetic reasons—it offers design flexibility, ensures seamless integration with surrounding surfaces, enhances long-term appearance and durability, facilitates maintenance, and improves weather resistance, making it a valuable feature in construction projects.

Dynatrol® I-XL Hybrid is formulated with Pecora's unique hybrid STPU technology, differentiating it from the standard urethane-based Dynatrol® I-XL sealant. The STPU chemistry utilized in Dynatrol® I-XL Hybrid is a one-part, moisture-curing sealant developed specifically for sealing dynamic joints on both porous and non-porous surfaces. It cures to a low-modulus rubber with exceptional adhesion, accommodating joint movement of $\pm 50\%$. Additionally, Dynatrol® I-XL Hybrid does not yellow, crack, or craze under long-term exposure to UV light.

This restoration effort underscores the broader importance of preserving cultural heritage, maintaining architectural integrity, and contributing to the sustainability and identity of the community. The successful restoration not only meets the practical needs of the Old City Hall building but also exemplifies a commitment to excellence, ensuring that the building remains a beacon of cultural enrichment for generations to come. The Whatcom Museum continues to play a vital role in fostering education, cultural appreciation, and community pride in the heart of Bellingham.