

Case Study: AquaStrip MPS

Stripping hooks and racks proves to be a source of revenue

“We are saving \$300,000 every year.”

The Challenge

A plumbing hardware manufacturer continued to innovate and grow to the point where were making 200,000 parts per day - all of which needed to be powder coated with a long lasting, guaranteed finish.

The faucets, handles and parts are powder coated, but so too are the racks. Stripping, cleaning and -maintaining the racks was vital to assure a consistent finish and proper grounding in the spray booth.



The company was using a fluidized sand bed that required taking the racks offline for stripping. Therefore the company needed to have 3 times the number of racks just to keep up with manufacturing requirements. In addition to investing in additional racks, the legacy system had several challenges:



Cleaning
the Hard to Clean

AquaStrip MPS Features & Benefits

- 67% reduction in the labor costs
- 30% reduction in real time accidents
- Strip time reduced to 15 minutes
- Man-hours allocated to replace and repair racks reduced from 3 to 1 worker per shift.
- AquaStrip® MPS has not been replaced in 4 years, only make-up solution has been required, making maintenance very simple.

- Sand residue carried into the washers on the pre-paint line destroyed pumps, risers and nozzles
- Damaged paint application components led to pain failures and increased maintenance costs
- Constantly removing and shipping the racks to the fluidized sand bed was costly
- Racks needed continual replacement due to experienced metal fatigue from the high temperatures of the fluidized sand bed
- The production line had to be shut down for 6 days per year for maintenance
- Power outages destroyed the parts that were trapped in the fluidized sand bed
- There were health and safety issues due to the physical handling of the hot racks
- There were pervasive fire hazards due to organic material being burned off of the racks.

The net effect was hundreds of thousands of dollars in ongoing maintenance and repair costs.

“Many people don’t realize that paint stripping is a value-added process. I think this case proves otherwise.”

Larry Ensley
Technical Service Manager
Hubbard-Hall



The Approach

Seeking efficiency, the company opted to replace their legacy cleaning process with an in-line rack stripping system as part of the powder coating line. Hubbard-Hall’s Aquastrip MPS was chosen as the stripping solution in the new system.

The Outcome

The plant manager estimates the company is now saving \$300,000 annually in labor and costs associated with replacing and

repairing the racks.

In addition, the new process has lowered rejection rates and provides a more consistent, uniform and reliable coating on the faucets and fixtures.

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