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# LEAN THOUGHTS

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## **Suck don't Blow compressed air costs cash**

It is counter-productive yet you see it happening all of the time within factories. People using compressed air to blow off parts, machines and as a assist to clean their work centres.

Companies are investing heavy into their 5S+1 Programs to make sure that everything has a place and everything is then stored in its place. A major element of a 5S program is the "Sanitize" phase where a deep cleaning takes place to make the area and machine shine.

Many companies do not take the extra time to determine that once the deep clean has been accomplished how it will be maintained. In essence they feel that the tribal knowledge of the worker along with their self esteem will sustain the momentum. In some cases extra clean-up time is added at the end of the shift to accommodate the task.

As easy methodology is to incorporate your cleaning instructions within your TPM Process. Conduct a time study to determine how long the required daily cleaning tasks require. Document in a Visual Work Instruction to insure you have established a common standard. Then feather in the additional tasks that can be accomplished weekly or monthly to insure the sanitize is sustained.

Back to compressed air ... what is viewed as the simplest method of cleaning is to use the compressed air hose combined with a high velocity nozzle ... not !! Compressed air does not remove material it just merely displaces it to another location. Now employees may argue they are able to corral the debris into a pile to then be removed using a dust bin. Compressed air atomizes much of the dust and allows it to wander through-out your work place ... onto lights, diminishing their effectiveness, onto product, diminishing value and creating a potential quality issue.

As dust settles onto product it will be a through-put deterrent for subsequent shifts as operators clean parts before processing. The dust then re-enters your machines reducing efficiency ... so in essence you have created an effective closed-loop system to contain and recycle your dust and debris. The only positive from compressed air cleaning is that as dust settles on inventory it does create visual indicator for inventory aging.

Strategic placement of shop-vacs will work to remove the debris from areas. Although a bit more time consuming it does effectively remove dust and debris from the area without it being atomized into the atmosphere to land in undesirable areas.

So let us consider the cost impact ...

### **LEAN CONSORTIUM MEMBERS:**

- ACE Bakery
- Alumicor
- CGL
- CTS Canada
- EATON Cutler Hammer
- KRAFT
- LA-Z-BOY- Residential
- MESSIER-DOWTY
- MORRISON LAMOTHE
- ORENDA
- NESTLE WATERS CANADA



Where “Lean Thoughts”  
Become Reality

Many are concerned about the cost of adding shop-vacs to their work environment. But consider the cost of the huge air compressor located in some remote area of your operation. The air compressor is located out-of-way primarily due to its noisy operation.

But in this case ... noise is cash !!

Not only is the noise of hissing airlines being used to blow clean areas irritating it can be calculated into a cost you are incurring within your operation.

I have attached with this week's edition of Lean Thoughts a simple calculator that you can use to estimate your cash consumption.. do the math and then make your own decision.

In addition, during a time when your operation is idle, bring in your team of maintenance techs. Turn on your compressor ... in case they actually turned it off at end of shift. Stand in the middle of the plant and listen for leaks. After a few hours of tightening lines and replacing leaky connectors use the calculator to estimate how much you have saved.

Still on the topic of energy conservation you may want to partner with an organization like 360 Energy. I have worked with Dave Arkell in the past with great success. In essence he and his team work with you to install an energy monitoring system so you can track when your peak usage is happening. You can implement corrective actions to level load your consumption. In one case I remember, peak electrical usage was happening just breaks and lunch ... upon investigation it was found that employees were plugging in their kettles to boil water for the beverage of their choice to be consumed during break. E-mail dave to see if he can benefit your organization ... plus he is just fun to talk with ... [david.arkell@360energy.net](mailto:david.arkell@360energy.net)

Suck don't blow will save you cash and help create a quieter and cleaner work environment. You have invested significantly in your 5S effort so change habits to preserve your investment.

**Save Headcount!!**

*We can be a cost effective extension of your CI Department without adding permanent resources.*



**A Profound Message**

One day all the employees reached the office and they saw a big advice on the door on which it was written:

'Yesterday the person who has been hindering your growth in this company passed away. We invite you to join the funeral in the room that has been prepared in the gym'.

In the beginning, they all got sad for the death of one of their colleagues, but after a while they started getting curious to know who was that man who hindered the growth of his colleagues and the company itself. The excitement in the gym was such that security agents were ordered to control the crowd within the room.

The more people reached the coffin, the more the excitement heated up... Everyone thought: 'Who is this guy who was hindering my progress? Well, at least he died!'. One by one the thrilled employees got closer to the coffin, and when they looked inside it they suddenly became speechless. They stood nearby the coffin, shocked and in silence, as if someone had touched the deepest part of their soul. There was a mirror inside the coffin: everyone who looked inside it could see himself.

There was also a sign next to the mirror that said: 'There is only one person who is capable to set Limits to your growth: it is ... YO U . Your life does not change when your boss changes, when your friends change, when your parents change, when your partner changes, when your company changes. Your life changes when YO U change, when you go beyond your limiting beliefs.

Examine yourself, watch yourself. Don't be afraid of difficulties, impossibilities and losses: be a winner, build yourself and your reality.. It's the way you face Life that makes the difference

**Supplier Collaboration**

This is a video of a new Ford plant in Camacari, Brazil. How close are you with your suppliers?

<http://info.detnews.com/video/index.cfm?id=1189>

2008 Consortium Event Schedule



Tour Workshop Conference

January	February	March	April	May	June
<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 16  <b>Eaton Electrical</b>,                      contact Joe Fisher,  <a href="mailto:JoeRFisher@eaton.com">JoeRFisher@eaton.com</a></p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 13,  <b>ACE Bakery</b>,                      contact Cindy Grolleman,  <a href="mailto:cgrolleman@acebakery.com">cgrolleman@acebakery.com</a></p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 19,  <b>Nestle Waters</b>,                      contact Mariela Castano  <a href="mailto:mcastano@perriergroup.com">mcastano@perriergroup.com</a></p>	<p><b>C</b></p> <p><b>Consortium Shareshowcase</b></p> <p>Saturday 05  <b>Eaton Milton</b>,                      Contact Cindy Grolleman  <a href="mailto:cgrolleman@acebakery.com">cgrolleman@acebakery.com</a>                      or Joe Fisher  <a href="mailto:JoeRFisher@eaton.com">JoeRFisher@eaton.com</a></p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 14,  <b>Alumicor</b>,                      contact Barry Wood  <a href="mailto:barry@Alumicor.com">barry@Alumicor.com</a></p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 18,  <b>Morrison LaMothe</b>,                      contact Tony Vita  <a href="mailto:tvita@morrisonlamthe.com">tvita@morrisonlamthe.com</a></p>
July	August	September	October	November	December
		<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 24,  <b>Kraft Foods</b>,                      contact Hanif Jivraj  <a href="mailto:hjivraj@Kraft.com">hjivraj@Kraft.com</a></p> <p><b>C</b></p> <p><b>Executive Forum</b>                      Tuesday &amp; Wednesday                      23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup>                      Contact Richard to register  <a href="mailto:rkunst@kumstartofsolutions.com">rkunst@kumstartofsolutions.com</a></p> <p><b>C</b></p> <p>22<sup>nd</sup> Transportation                      Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>  <a href="http://www.transportconference.net/embison.html">http://www.transportconference.net/embison.html</a></p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 16,  <b>CTS Corp.</b>,                      contact Navneet Mann,  <a href="mailto:navneet.mann@ctscorp.com">navneet.mann@ctscorp.com</a></p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 12,  <b>Messier-Dowty</b>,                      contact Mike Smith  <a href="mailto:Mike.Smith@Messier-dowty.on.ca">Mike.Smith@Messier-dowty.on.ca</a></p>	<p><b>T</b></p> <p>Wednesday 10,  <b>Orenda</b>,                      contact Brenda McIntosh  <a href="mailto:brendamcintosh@orenda.com">brendamcintosh@orenda.com</a></p>