Tech Article

Cleaning Scorecard Helps You Determine the Best Cleaning Method

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When selecting a new, long-term critical cleaning process, sorting through all the conflicting claims of the cleaning product manufacturers is a challenge. Many companies only look at the cost of a machine or a drum of solvent. They believe the lowest priced machine or the cheapest cost per gallon is the best choice.

This is not the best method as there are many other factors to consider. You should have your desired outcomes in mind while choosing.

Cycle time and total throughput are important to know up front. The labor required to operate, inspect, test, clean and maintain the equipment is important too. Not to mention other costs. These include electricity and water consumption, any consumables, like filters, needed. Plus, any costs associated with the safe and compliant disposal of spent fluids.

To measure the economies of cleaning, a good method is to start a cleaning scorecard based on total cost-per-part cleaned. The focus of the cleaning scorecard is to ensure a product is cleaned efficiently at the lowest total cost, not just cost per gallon of cleaning fluid.

See scorecard on page 2 to get started.

About the Author:

Mike Jones, retired Vice President of International Sales for MicroCare, has over 30 years of experience in the critical cleaning industry. He is a prolific writer and educator focusing on critical cleaning in general and vapor degreasing and benchtop cleaning in particular. For more information, visit www.microcare.com.

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Cleaning Scorecard

When comparing long-term cleaning processes, you need to consider more than the cost of equipment or a drum of solvent. It's the total cost-per-part-cleaned that is important. Health, safety and environmental regulations must always be a priority when evaluating the best cleaning process for your business.

Use these important calculations to determine the lowest cost-per-part cleaned.

One-Time Capital Costs

Cost of Capital	$ _____
Cost of Cleaning System	$ _____
Freight & Insurance	$ _____
Site Engineering & Architectural Planning Costs	$ _____
Construction	$ _____
Electrical Changes	$ _____
Water/Plumbing	$ _____
Ventilation	$ _____
Total Capital Costs:	$ _____

System Set-Up

Actual Footprint or Size of Machine	_____
Work Space Multiplier	_____
Cost per Square Foot	$ _____
Total System Set-Up:	$ _____

Throughput Calibration Factors

Cycle Time	_____
Parts per Cycle	_____
Max. Parts per Hour	_____
Required Operating Hours/Day	_____
Stand-by Hours/Day (normally much lower costs per hour)	_____
Total Throughput:	_____

Operating Costs

Labor: Operator, Cost per Hour (fully-loaded labor rate)	$ _____
Labor: Inspection & Re-cleaning, Cost per Hour	$ _____
Labor: System Testing	$ _____
Labor: System Maintenance, Cost per Hour	$ _____
Electricity	$ _____
Water	$ _____
Consumables (Filters, etc.)	$ _____
Solvent	$ _____
Solvent Losses (Drag-Out)	$ _____
Solvent Disposal	$ _____
Total Operating Costs:	$ _____
Cost Per Part Cleaned = Total Operating Costs ÷ Total Throughput	$ _____

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