



Cycletime Tips - Automotive

Volume 19: Contamination

It doesn't hurt to reflect on the basics when it comes to the direct costs of contamination. Throughout my entire plastics career this issue remains the number one category in dollars lost to the bottom line in automotive molding plants served by Ashland. I use the word category because contamination presents itself in many forms. In my experience, most molding operations seem to pay little attention to this problem and react to it as if it were just part of the cost of doing business.

Bill Fierens and I face this issue on a daily basis when traveling to our automotive accounts. Contamination comes in many forms including improper hopper cleaning when changing materials from job to job, improper screw and barrel cleaning on material changes, inaccurate additive ratios to the material base resin, improper cleaning of granulators, improper labeling of virgin and regrind containers, improper sealing of hoppers and regrind containers, and poorly maintained air conveying systems.

Our automotive business is cyclical and with this economy we seem to be at the bottom end of the curve. The automotive companies, nevertheless, are still asking for givebacks. One way we can support their cost containment efforts is by helping our customers gain control of contamination. We have an excellent seminar entitled, "Material Handling." This seminar covers the entire subject relating to contamination. If anyone is interested in having Bill or me present this seminar you may contact your salesperson or Bill or me directly.

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