

The Importance of Great Housekeeping — Including Presses

Are you proud to show off your facility?

Would you be comfortable giving a customer a spontaneous tour of your production floor? Or do you need to schedule a “clean day” first?

Housekeeping may not be the *only* way to increase profit, but it’s far more important than many realize. The cleanliness and organization of your company reflect directly on your people, your products, and the service you provide.

You might think, “*Everybody knows that.*” But the truth is—many companies don’t live it.

First Impressions Go Beyond the Front Office

Most businesses make sure their front office and lobby look great because “*first impressions mean everything.*” And that’s true—but first impressions extend far beyond the front desk.

Your entire facility, including the production floor, represents your company. A clean, well-organized operation builds confidence with both potential and existing customers. It silently says:

“We know what we’re doing, and you’re in good hands with us.”

The opposite sends a very different message:

“We can’t even take care of ourselves—how can we take care of you?”

The Restaurant Analogy

Imagine eating at a restaurant with a spotless dining area and excellent food—you’d probably return. But if you were to see a dirty kitchen, overflowing trash, and roaches, that great impression would vanish instantly. You’d tell friends, post about it online, and never go back.

Unfortunately, many companies operate just like that restaurant—clean up front, chaos in the back. And it’s not just hurting your image; it’s costing you **real money**.

The Hidden Cost of Poor Housekeeping

A cluttered, unorganized production floor leads to wasted materials, lost time, and frustrated operators. Dirty presses cause:

- Web breaks
- Poor registration
- Slower drying times
- Longer setup periods

All of these translate into higher waste, longer run times, and reduced profit—or even losses.

When work areas aren’t clean or organized, operators waste valuable time searching for tools—the infamous missing Allen wrench, a ruler, calculator, or pen.

Every time an operator leaves their press to “find” something, production stops. And let’s be honest—nobody finds what they need in 10 seconds.

They stop at other presses, chat with coworkers, get distracted, and before long, multiple operators have lost focus. That can lead to bad product, web breaks, or other preventable issues. **The result? Lost money.**

Let's Do the Math

Let's say one operator spends just **15 minutes a day** searching for tools or supplies. (most of the time it's a lot more time)

Over a 40-hour work week, that's **1.25 hours** of lost production time.

Multiply that by 50 working weeks per year (allowing for 2 weeks off):

$1.25 \text{ hours/week} \times 50 \text{ weeks} = \mathbf{62.5 \text{ hours per operator per year}}$

That's **more than a week and a half of paid time**—per operator—spent *not producing*. And in many cases, this downtime triggers **overtime**, meaning you're paying **time-and-a-half for nonproductive time**.

Now multiply that by your total number of operators, finishers, and rewinders. Then factor in second and third shifts. The result? **Massive, unnecessary losses**—all because of poor housekeeping.

Why It Matters

When housekeeping is neglected, costs rise, quality suffers, and morale drops. Clean, organized environments promote pride, accountability, and efficiency.

If your operators or production managers don't think it's a big deal, ask them how they'd feel if their pay was docked each month for the downtime and waste caused by poor housekeeping.

The Bottom Line

Good housekeeping isn't just about appearances—it's about profitability, efficiency, and credibility.

By maintaining a clean, organized production floor, you'll reduce waste, shorten setup times, and improve product quality.

Take control of your housekeeping, and you'll take control of your profits.

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