On the Shop Floor: Designing Lean Workstations/Cells with Reusable Plastic Packaging

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Why Lean?

- Eliminates waste
- Improves lead times
- Optimizes labor
- Supports just-in-time demand





8 Areas of Waste in the Manufacturing Process







Reusable Packaging: Defined

Multi-use product used to store, stage and move materials and supplies

- Products: Bins, totes, trays and shelving systems
- Characteristics: Standard sizes, long service life, cleanable, structural integrity, dimensionally consistent
- Styles: Hopper front, nestable, stackable and dividable
- Specialized Materials: ESD Safe, moisture and chemical resistant





What gets in the way of Lean Workstations?

- Inefficient workstation layout
 - Not organized, not visual, too much or too little space, wasted walk time, excessive reaching
- Poor material/supply storage and transfer
 - High velocity items stored in hard to reach places, while slow moving items may be in the way
- Ineffective process
 - Stock-outs or damaged material





How Does Reusable Packaging Fit In with Lean?

- Creates efficient workstation layout
 - Standardized bin sizes
 - Easily labeled
 - Stackable or nestable for optimum organization
- Improves material/supply storage and transfer
 - Securely stacking bins, covers protect from debris
 - Easily labeled
 - Cleanable
- Ensures consistent and repeatable processes
 - Hopper bins offer easy and consistent access to materials
 - Shelf bins with molded Kanban card







How are Companies Getting Lean?

5S - Named for the Japanese words for sort, straighten, shine, standardize and sustain:

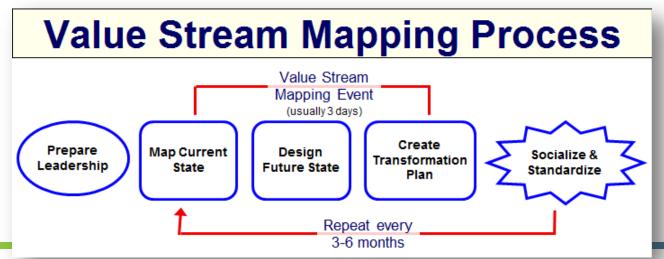
- Sort: Remove all items not needed for current production.
- Straighten: Arrange items so they are accessible and clearly labeled.
- Shine: Clean and tidy the work area.
- Standardize: Define the normal workspace condition.
- Sustain: Ensure the improvements are continually carried out.
- 71% of today's manufacturers use5S methodologies





How are Companies Getting Lean?

- Value Stream Mapping (VSM)
 - Map out the entire current state process to visualize and identify value-added tasks and non-value-added activities.
 - Reimagine the process/layout with a future state map.
 - 46% of today's manufacturers use VSM







How are Companies Getting Lean?

Kanban

 Japanese manufacturing system in which the supply of materials is regulated through the use of an instruction card sent along the production line.

38.3% of today's manufacturers use
Kanban





What are some proven metrics that will drive value from a reusable program?

- Time savings metrics
 - Assembly time
 - Walk time
 - Re-stocking or replenishment times
- Cost savings metrics
 - Reduction in product defects
 - Reduction in re-work
 - Inventory management improvements
 - Logistics cost reductions related to optimized inventory





Packaging Considerations

Hopper Bins for Workstations

- Shelf and Part Bins
- Sizes from 5" x 4" to 18" x 16"
- Medium and heavy duty
- Identification options
- Multiple colors

Benefits

- All-plastic, reusable
- One piece, no assembly
- Fully recyclable
- Increased spacing for in / out on cart or other tight pick options
- Increased visibility for shelved systems
- Superior access to contents
- Cleanable

Totes for Material Storage

- Stackable totes
- Nestable totes
- Dividable
- Optional covers
- Identification options
- Multiple colors

Benefits

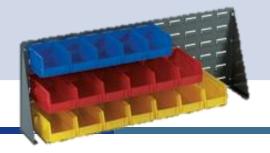
- Can be palletized for inter-facility movement
- Some integrate with dollies for efficient movement
- Provides stable loads for WIP movement
- Covers protect from dirt and debris

Storage Systems for Cells

- Shelving systems
- Cabinets
- Wall mounted or floor stands

Benefits

- Creates visual system
- Standardized slots for easy picking
- Organizes bins in a standard way







How to Get Started

- 1. Analyze your product flow Use Value Stream Mapping to find improvements in your product flow. Get shop floor employees involved.
- **2. Prove –** Use learnings and identify cost and environmental savings from reusables in workstations.
- **3. Design** Create the best solution.
- **4. Implement** Test, pilot and implement.
- **5. Evolve** Always be open to new ideas. Encourage all operators and shop employees to own and drive improvement ideas.







"A well-executed lean manufacturing program does more than reduce waste and expense from the supply chain. It adds value for the company as well as the employee. When employees have a clear and accountable role that adds value for the customer, it can increase employee satisfaction and retention."

-- Amy Kaminski, vice president for Compdata Surveys & Consulting





Questions and Discussion





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