

Automotive Assembly Plant Saves US\$1,500,000

Challenge

A major automotive assembly plant had a costly environmental problem attributed to poor chemical treatment performance in their paint spray booth process. The treatment program could not completely detackify or dewater the paint solids present in the 500,000-gallon (189,215-L) system. The result was a system that was overloaded with suspended solids, that required excessive maintenance and produced paint sludge that had to be combined with hazardous plant waste.

The goals of the program were to:

- Reduce paint sludge volume
- Cleaner system water
- Enhance solids removal in sludge handling systems
- Reduce hazardous waste

Solution

At GE Water & Process Technologies, we understand how a paint spray booth treatment program can impact your maintenance and sludge disposal costs. In response to stated industry needs, GE developed Detac* - "All-Polymer Paint Detackification and Sludge Treatment Program."

The Detac treatment program was initiated in the paint spray booth system and sludge removal equipment modifications were made. During the first few weeks of operation, adjustments were made to the treatment program and sludge removal equipment to purge the previous treatment and paint solids. Upon stabilization of the system the following results were documented.

Results

The application of this unique technology provided complete detackification of paint overspray in the

paint spray booth operation of a major automotive assembly plant. This resulted in a 40% reduction of paint sludge volume and US\$1,500,000/year in savings.

- 40% reduction in paint sludge volume
- Sludge dewatered to over 50% solids
- Cleaner system water with reduced suspended solids
- Treatable sludge that did not need to be combined with hazardous process waste

Cost Savings Benefits

- Sludge volume reductions savings of US\$88,000/year
- Sludge handling cost reduction of US\$30,000/year
- Decreased maintenance costs
- Eliminated US\$1,400,000/year hazardous waste disposal
- Increased bottom-line profitability by US\$1,500,000/year



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