

Tork reduces motion waste and improves efficiency for Purmo Group

Purmo Group is achieving labor time savings of up to 60 minutes per shift and an 80 percent reduction in contaminated waste disposal costs after a switch to Tork industrial wipers at its UK production facility.

The company discovered that Tork can enhance efficiency and help achieve sustainability goals, through improved wiping performance.

Purmo Group is one of the world's leading suppliers of indoor climate comfort solutions with operations in 26 countries around the globe. Based in Helsinki, Finland, Purmo Group employs 3,500 employees throughout its global operations. The company manufactures sustainable indoor climate comfort solutions in hydronic and electrical forms. These include air-conditioning and heat pumps plus a range of hydronic and electric radiators, underfloor heating, valves, controls and piping systems. The company delivers solutions to a range of facilities including houses, residential buildings, industrial units, offices, hotels, schools, airports and hospitals.

The company were using cotton rags for wiping tasks at its UK site but were experiencing several problems with this solution. For example, Purmo Group managers discovered that significant time was being wasted because employees had to walk distances to fetch a rag when they needed one. Many of the rags provided by the supplier were then found to be unusable because they were the wrong size or insufficiently absorbent. This led to a great deal of waste since many rags had to be discarded.

And the rags were bulky and had to be stored on pallets in the warehouse where they were taking up considerable amounts of space.

“We struggled with quality issues with the rag supplier. And lint on old rags could hold debris which could scratch delicate surfaces. This has been removed by using the Tork Cloth”

Stephen Jackman
Production Manager, Purmo Group

“This is where we came in,” said Essity Account Manager Dave Lightfoot. “We offered Purmo Group the Tork Workflow™ service to review their current situation and see what changes could be made. We discussed the motion waste the company was experiencing due to employees spending large amounts of time walking to and from in search of a rag.”

“And we offered them a trial of Tork Heavy-Duty Cleaning Cloths housed in Tork Performance dispensers, and gave employees feedback forms to find out what they thought of the system.”

Tork Heavy-Duty Cleaning Cloths are absorbent, thick and durable and are able to remove oil, grease, water and stubborn spots from components and surfaces. The Tork Performance dispensers trialled were wall-mounted units with flexible mounting options, in this case fixed in place via magnets, which means they can be placed in key locations close to employees' workstations. They also have a striking red housing that makes them easy for staff to spot.

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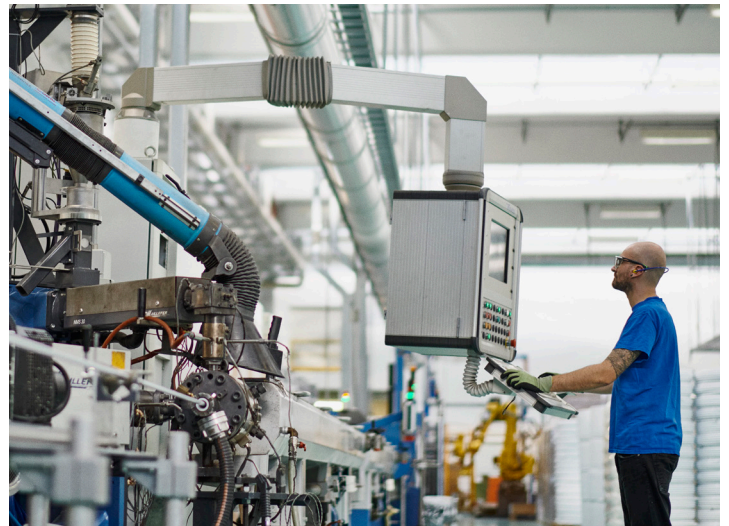
“The resulting savings have been dramatic. With an 80 percent reduction in contaminated waste disposal costs, not to mention all the sustainability benefits of producing less waste.”

Dave Lightfoot
Account Manager, Essity

The switch has been a huge success with both managers and employees, says Dave. “The fact that wiper dispensers are now available in convenient locations in the production environment has improved time efficiency, reduced motion waste and boosted productivity,” he said.

“Rather than having to spend time away from their workstations in search of a suitable rag, operatives now always have a highly effective wiper close to hand. And every Tork cloth is fit for purpose and standardised, which means none are wasted.”

Another benefit has been the fact that Tork Performance dispensers have tidied up the working environment, says Dave. “Rags used to be placed in bins that would take up valuable space within the production area,” he said. “Tork Performance dispensers have smartened up the employees’ work stations and removed the excess clutter. As a result, staff members are more motivated because their tidy new environment allows them to work more efficiently.”



Many organizations are incorporating Lean, Six Sigma or 5S methodologies into their operations to streamline processes and keep delays to a minimum. These systems stipulate that all frequently used tools and equipment should be situated close to their point of use to save valuable time and effort. And wipers are essential in environments where hands and components need to be kept clean which means they are an important “tool” in workflow methodologies.

“Tork Cloths offer cost reduction in terms of waste, and provide better performance on cleaning of panels compared to the existing rags.”

Stephen Jackman
Production Manager, Purmo Group

Purmo Group has also noted storage benefits after making the switch to Tork. “Packs of Tork Heavy-Duty Cleaning Cloths are much more compact than rags and can now be conveniently stored on shelves,” said Dave. “This means they take up much less space than rags on pallets in the warehouse. And this extra space can be used for stocking additional materials.”