Silicone Applicator Cleaning Improvement

Dan Church  
*Iowa State University*, dpchurch@iastate.edu

Tyler Hamann  
*Iowa State University*, tjhamann@iastate.edu

Troy Harding  
*Iowa State University*, tharding@iastate.edu

Tyler Hoch  
*Iowa State University*, twhoch@iastate.edu

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Silicone Applicator Cleaning Improvement

Client: Cardinal Glass, Greenfield, Iowa

Problem Statement
• Silicone is curing inside the applicator tips due to process not being standardized.
• Due to silicone curing inside the tips, the employees are having to repeat the cleaning process resulting in added labor expenses.

Scope
• Implement a new cleaning process to all workstations to reduce overall tip cleaning cycle time by standardizing the cleaning process and organizing workstations.

Objectives
• Standardize cleaning procedure throughout facility
• Reduce applicator tip cleaning process by 30 seconds
• 5S compliant workstation

Constraints
• Criteria to be met: 3% internal rate of return in 12 months
• Cannot change the silicon used in the process.
• Cannot use abrasives on the applicator tip.
• The process must be universal to all applicator tip sizes.

Methods
• Research alternative solvents
• Calculate current costs (tooling and labor)
• Calculate new costs (tooling and labor)

Major Outcomes
• Update the SOP to improve tip cleaning time by 5%
• Replace solvent to decrease tank cycle time by 5%
• Make workstation 5S compliant to improve organization and efficiency

Benefit to Client
• Estimated $8,600 savings per station per year in rework time
• Standardize the cleaning procedure for the tip cleaning process.

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