

CASE STUDY: Tier One Automotive Supplier Saves \$100,000 Annually with Drawing Compound Recycling Solution

Challenge

One of the world's largest automotive suppliers was using a soluble oil drawing compound on many of its mechanical transfer presses to make transmission components for cars and trucks.

Rising oil and chemical prices led them to ask Brighton Labs if they had any ideas that could help them better control fluid costs without sacrificing fluid or component quality.



Solution

Brighton Labs worked closely with their customer's Plant Manager to better understand its stamping process, press tolerance, and drawing compound fluid requirements.

The insight gained as a trusted partner and the subsequent analysis of the results led Brighton Labs to propose the development of an innovative, cost saving recycling system.

Brighton Labs customized a fluid recycling system and a quality control process that enabled the customer to recycle its drawing compounds in-house. The solution included a new drawing compound fluid to meet its chemical specifications and resist bacteria and fungus growth.

Brighton Labs installed five recycling units at five mechanical transfer presses using the virgin drawing compound. The compound is mixed on site to the specified ratio and applied to the part.

The spent compound is channeled into the recycling unit where it filters the fluid within minutes. The recycled fluid is then sent back to the press, applied to the part, and the process starts over again. Some makeup with virgin fluid is required since some of it is dragged out on each stamped part.

Results

This Tier One automotive and truck supplier has reduced its fluid usage by 30%, saving roughly \$100,000 before expenses in year one. The cost of the recycling program, including the recycling unit, plumbing, electrical work

and ongoing maintenance was about \$4,000 per press.

Brighton Labs estimates that the lifecycle savings for this Tier One supplier will be \$480,000 over five (5) years or an additional savings of \$100,000 per year.

Returns will vary by press size, but the bigger the press, the greater the savings.

