

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products
740 King Edward Avenue SE
Cleveland, TN 37311
423-472-3371
www.maytag.com



Better Controls Reduce Water Usage By 13%

The Member

Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products (Whirlpool – Cleveland Division) began its Cleveland, Tennessee operations in 1916 as Dixie Foundry Company, a manufacturer of hollowware including sugar pots and teakettles. Company founder S.B. Rymer, Sr. expanded the product mix to stoves and ranges, and the company expanded into a major producer of home appliances through continued internal growth and corporate acquisitions. In 1958, Dixie Foundry purchased Magic Chef of St. Louis, Missouri and became Magic Chef, Inc. In 1986, the Maytag Company of Newton, Iowa acquired Magic Chef and this facility was renamed Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products. In 2006, Maytag was acquired by Whirlpool Corporation of Benton Harbor, Michigan and became Maytag Corporation; wholly owned subsidiary of Whirlpool Corporation. The Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products operation currently employs 1545 people in two plants. The facility produces over 1 million gas and electric cooking appliances per year. MCCP is ISO 9001-Certified.

The Story

The mission of Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products is, "To be the undisputed leader of cooking products by consistently providing customers the best quality and the best value." Achieving this goal requires the facility to be environmentally friendly as well as stated in the Environmental Policy: "We are committed to protecting our environment as well as the health and safety of employees, customers and consumers. Our manufacturing operations and products comply with all applicable governmental regulations, industry and internal standards, and company policies. We are dedicated to the implementation and continuous improvement of processes for pollution prevention, waste reduction and natural resource conservation."

In keeping with this mission, Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products implemented several initiatives over the last 4 years that have produced a 13% process water reduction.

The Success

A program was started in the Finishing Department in 2006-2007 to monitor and control the rinse waters in the eight metal pretreatment wash systems throughout two facilities. Flow monitors were installed at each water supply valve and at each tank exit valves where countercurrent rinsing existed. Flow rates were evaluated and established based on a balanced system. A program of daily flow monitoring and adjustments was established. In addition, countercurrent rinsing was added to the West Finishing system during this time.

Redundant pretreatment wash systems were consolidated in early 2008. This consolidation effort reduced the number of pretreatment wash systems from eight to the current number of five wash systems.

An ongoing effort has been made in the fabrication department, to reduce water usage during routine housekeeping activities in the press room. In the past drawing compounds residual on the floor and machines had been washed into the press pits. That practice was replaced in 2007 with the use of floor scrubbers that use less water.

The Pollution Prevented

Over the past 4 years these water conservation practices have saved Maytag Cleveland Cooking Products 134.5 million gallons of water or 34 million gallons per year. The associated cost savings over the same 4 year period have been a half a million dollars or \$125,000 per year.

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