

A leading machinery and equipment manufacturer has implemented Fastenal's vending solutions at the majority of their sites to manage their supplies. Success has been building since their first location installed a Fastenal vending machine in 2009. As the proven results have been shared internally, more and more machines have been installed at their facilities across the country.

INITIAL CHALLENGES

Previously, they had limited controls and accountability with regards to supply usage. They knew there was waste, but without a solid reporting system in place, it was difficult to identify. In addition, their procurement process involved layers of staff involvement and inefficiencies.

FASTENAL'S VENDING SOLUTION

With the installation of Fastenal's FAST 5000 vending machines and locker sets, they now have a more efficient way to distribute and account for their high-use MRO and PPE supplies. Machines are strategically placed throughout the production floors to provide high-use consumables and PPE closer to the point of use, improving productivity. The local Fastenal branches have taken on the responsibility of managing the inventory and refilling the machines. The requisition process has been streamlined. Instead of having multiple departments ordering and carrying their own supplies, there is now one streamlined procedure, one main stocking area, and confidence that supplies will always be available when needed – with no paperwork or labor required by plant personnel.

BUSINESS RESULTS

Detailed Usage Reporting

Every transaction is automatically tracked and recorded at the employee level, with real time usage reporting available via smart phone or PC. Prior to requesting an item from a machine, employees must enter their ID number along with up to six levels of desired information, such as a department, job number, or even the machine they're working on. As a result of this precise traceability, one facility has been able to identify maintenance issues with their machines based on supply usage patterns. Buyers are also using the reporting to analyze whether higher product costs are paying off with increased product life. With clear visibility into how often employees are cycling through consumable supplies, they're able to measure the impact of product quality/price on the cost of production.

Reduced Consumption

As a result of the visibility and control afforded by vending, many facilities have seen significant reductions in consumption. In one location, gloves that should be lasting a month to six weeks were being replaced every week, yet they couldn't get a handle on specifically who was using the gloves and why they were going through them so quickly. **After installing a FAST 5000 to dispense and track the gloves, they were able to save over \$3,000 in the first three months.**

At another facility, some of their employees were getting a new pair of safety glasses every week, and machinists were routinely taking whole boxes of grinding wheels (25 per box) instead of just the single wheels they needed. **With the increased visibility and control, they were able to cut consumption in half and save \$20,000 within the first six months of installation.**

24/7 Self-Service Access

Many of their operations run 24/7, but the store rooms are not always staffed during off shifts. With the vending machines now in place, they have a secured source for supply attainment. Needed items are available whenever the needs arise, without exposure to misuse.

IN THE CUSTOMER'S WORDS...

"It's certainly been a profitable idea for us – our consumption is down 50%. ... Fastenal as a whole has been a positive change for our facility."
- Senior Buyer

"There are unquantifiable time savings and hard number dollar savings ... Traceability and accountability are key."
- Safety Coordinator

"Our usage is down because it makes people think before taking product. It's working out well – that's why we're getting another one."
- Director of Purchasing

"It's saved a lot of time for the purchasing department and plant management. ... The entire requisition process has been cut significantly. We've gone from 64 P.O.s a month to one, and we saved \$20,000 in the first six months."
- Director of Purchasing

"Time has been the greatest savings for us. It also gives me the ability to watch what's being taken out of the system, which product is moving, and which isn't."
- Buyer

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRACK AND CONTROL?



**To learn more, contact your local Fastenal store or visit fastenal.com.
To schedule a FREE on-site demo, call 877-265-8247.**



Growth Through Customer Service.