Care & Feeding of a Trim System– Part 3

What can you do to make sure that your pneumatically-conveyed trim or dust collection system performs that way you need it to? This article, the final installment in a series of three, explains how.

Treat your air-conveyed material handling system right and it will treat you right.

1. Treat jams with the right tools. Never use a metal rod to un-jam the airlocks. Use a plastic or wood stick. NEVER stick your hand into the airlock. It can be pre-loaded and rotate when you un-jam it. Airlocks are a "No Hands" area.

2. Collect data when plugs occur. Save the scrap at the lead edge of the plug for a review. This can indicate the nature of the plug as well as its cause. In some cases, you'll be able to trace the scrap material back to a specific machine or shift. This will help determine if a specific machine has a clamp pressure problem or whether operator training is necessary.

3. Keep ductwork obstacle free. Be sure all ductwork is smooth and well fitted on the interior using long radius elbows and proper gauge duct. Avoid using screws or pop rivets for systems that convey trim.

4. Use the right type of ductwork. HVAC ductwork may cost less but that's because it isn't designed to handle material. HVAC duct is for clean air only and using it for material handling applications will lead to trouble. For example, paper dust is very abrasive and will easily wear through HVAC duct. In addition, conveying pressures are much higher in a material handling system than an air-only HVAC system. The additional vacuum pressure can cause HVAC duct to collapse immediately or over time.

Questions about your air-conveyed scrap collection system? Just give us a call at 615.230.9500 or email us at sales@gfpuhl.com.