

# Care & Feeding of a Trim System– Part 1

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

Treat your air-conveyed material handling system right and it will treat you right. Keep your trim collection system happy by making sure that your operator training mentions these tips.

1. Feed the system evenly. If you're processing trim waste from a print production process, never hand feed floor scrap, whole pages or books into the system unless the system is designed with a floor sweep. If the system does not have a floor sweep or flatbed cutter, that usually means that the system is designed for trim and dust to be fed via the operation of the production machines only. If operators are cleaning up their area and feed a whole page into the system, it will most likely plug. To make a system that could handle whole pages or whole books would require much larger (12" or more) diameter ducts at the machines and chopping blowers at each machine. The number one rule to keep an air-conveyed scrap system running is to evenly feed the system. Slugs make plugs.
2. Leave the inlets of the system open. Use blast gates ONLY in an emergency to cut off the air from one machine at a time. Cutting off too much air will increase suction at the other machines, however it can cause the system to be starved of air. This can create a number of problems. Scrap can lay in the main duct until it plugs. Or when you open all of the gates, the material is picked up all at once and will plug in the main duct.
3. No liquids in the system. Never put metal or any liquids (machine oil, water, etc.) into the system. Liquids will cause dust to cake on the filter cartridges and reduce suction. Metal can damage the new screen separator or the airlock below the filter or cause a spark and fire/explosion in the filter.

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