

# Planning Ahead for Your Next System



**“Plan A failed. Thank goodness there are another 25 letters in the alphabet.”**

Does your capital budget include a new trim collection system in the next three years? A little pre-planning can help you avoid embarrassing budget mismatches on scrap and dust collection projects.

If you will be in the market for an air-conveyed waste removal/recycling system in the next 3 -5 years, now is the time to start planning. Unless you’ve managed a scrap collection system installation in the past, it’s unlikely that you’ll know what is needed. Even if you’ve installed systems before, you may not be aware of the latest capabilities or changes in regulations or building codes that might affect your project. That’s why forward-thinking executives find it beneficial to get expert guidance when planning for new systems. Without that guidance, it’s easy to make costly mistakes that can derail even the most promising career.

G.F. Puhl has guided hundreds of companies through the pre-planning process. When we work with clients, we help them consider seven key factors:

1. Building Codes. If the system is to be installed outdoors, do city or county building codes place restrictions on cyclone height, noise levels or the external appearance of your facility? The build first/pull permits later approach rarely works with local codes officials.
2. System Sizing. How much waste is produced by the production process? Without an accurate measurement of waste output, it is nearly impossible to design a system that matches baler room capacity to scrap output.
3. System Backup. In order to reduce capital outlay for trim collection systems, manufacturers often ask vendors to eliminate equipment redundancy. This is risky. What happens to customer schedules when equipment fails and production grinds to a halt?
4. Energy Efficiency. Manufacturers who forget to take ductwork size and design into account are missing out on potential energy savings. Designing the system with planned future expansion in mind up front will save both capital and energy costs in the long run since larger ducts with combined equipment are more efficient than smaller ducts on individual pieces of production equipment.
5. Durability. Trim systems are required to do more than move tons of paper waste per hour. They must move tons of air. Only heavy duty systems that are sized and engineered properly can withstand such abuse over the long haul. Many manufacturers who opt for the low bid find themselves faced with the need to replace or repair their less than industrial duty rated systems in the first two or three years.
6. Reliability. If a trim system isn't built heavy enough to withstand peak waste "slugs," frequent breakdowns can lead to delays and unhappy customers. But the problems don't stop there. Crews accustomed to the downtime created by unreliable trim systems may not be motivated to meet production goals when the system works. When your trim system is unreliable, that sucking sound you hear is not the cyclone, it's the sound of profit dollars slipping away.
7. Makeup Air. The right trim collection system can help control heating and cooling costs. Air exhausted from the plant will eventually be replaced by air from the atmosphere. Using engineered outside air intakes can help reduce the cost of return air heating and cooling. If outside air intakes are not an option, clean air aborts can help reduce cooling costs in the summer months.

Need help with your pre-planning process? Give G.F. Puhl a call at 615.230.9500 or [email us](#).