



Pursuit of Circular Economy, Maintaining a Clean Workplace



KUBOI Coating Works Co.,Ltd.

Interviewee
CEO Kaname Kuboi

Specializing in industrial coating for a wide range of products; automobiles, aerospace related, home appliances etc...
Engaging in the research, development, and implementation of cutting-edge coating and eco-technologies.

What was your company's issue?

Time saving for manual labor

In the coating industry, efforts to reduce environmental impact are very essential because many petroleum-derived raw materials are used. Especially, the collection of sludge from the water after spraying is very important from the standpoint of environmental measures. However, this process has been carried out by hand, which has been a major problem in terms of improvement of work efficiency, added value, and the workplace environment.

This was also one of the important issues for the entire coating industry in the society where sustainability and carbon neutral are being exaggerated.

Why FILSTAR® ?

No Filters, Less Stress

“The main reason why we chose FILSTAR® is that it needs no filters,” said Mr. Kuboi, the company's president. When industrial filters are used in order to remove sludge from used water, the filters become industrial waste and are to be incinerated. That is a major problem from the perspective of circular economy and carbon neutrality. Now, FILSTAR® plays a very significant role for the company, and is actively involved in the research, development, and implementation of cutting-edge eco-friendly coating technology.

How FILSTAR® Works?

Improved productivity, profitability and work environment

The outcome that FILSTAR® made were outstanding. For example, the company produced no industrial waste by eliminating filters, improved collection rates through mechanization and automation, and reduced water consumption by generating reusable water. There are also significant effects on productivity and management. Needless to say, productivity and profitability were improved, allowing engineers to focus on high-value-added work. Also, we succeed in recruiting and retention of human resources since work environment improved.

We chose FILSTAR®
Because...

Concerns about Environmental Problems

“If your company makes efforts to address environmental problems, your company will be more productive.”

Industrial coating means coating industrial products such as automobiles and home appliances. Coating protects products from rust and ultraviolet rays, thereby prolonging their life cycle. However, in general, coating is derived from petroleum and contains many environmentally hazardous substances. We, as a coating business, needed to reduce the environmental concerns in order to realize a recycling society. For example, currently, coating efficiency when spraying is about 20%, and 80% is washed off by water. Therefore, that water contains sludge, and the sludge must be collected and captured for drainage. This is a very important process from an environmental perspective.

Before FILSTAR® was introduced, we had done it by hand. We wondered if we could improve efficiency by mechanizing and automating this process. This work itself does not add value to the coating process. It was also an important issue to increase the productivity of the plant by allowing engineers to concentrate on value-added work.

How did you know FILSTAR® ?

It Has High-Precision Filtration by Water Flow
which is Innovative and Promoting Eco-friendliness

One day, we heard that FILSTAR®, which uses the centrifugal force of water for high-precision filtration without the use of a filter, had a great track record in extending the life of cutting oil at metal cutting sites. So we wondered if this technology could be applied to sludge collection process.

When we consulted with industria, they said, "Let's do it," and we began joint development. industria did not just sell products; they actually sold solutions to customer's issues. They have same philosophy like ours that making drastic changes comes first.

The biggest advantage of FILSTAR® is that it needs no filters. With a filter, the filter becomes industrial waste. Discarded filters are incinerated, which is a major problem from the perspective of circular economy and carbon neutrality. Not having to worry about this is a breakthrough innovation in coating industry.

Innovation is needed in the coating industry.

The Benefits FILSTAR® Brings You

Promote Eco-friendliness , Improve Productivity and Workplace

Thanks to FILSTAR®, we have been able to be nice to the environment by eliminating industrial waste and improving the sludge collection and capture rate (from 50% to 70-80%) through mechanization and automation. In addition, the reduction of water consumption through the generation of reusable circulating water also has a positive impact on the environment.

In terms of work efficiency and productivity improvement, engineers are now freed from maintenance tasks such as sludge collection and cleaning, allowing them to concentrate on high quality coating operations, research and development, and other value-added tasks. This has definitely improved productivity at the worksite, and has also led to an increase in the company's profitability.

The effect on improving the workplace environment has also been significant. If sludge collection operations are automated and water is purified, the factory becomes cleaner and the work environment improves. This will also lead to the recruitment and retention of human resources. In fact, we are seeing an increase in the number of young people applying for and being hired at our company, and currently one out of every three applicants is a young person in his or her 20s. Japan is facing a serious labor shortage, but we have been able to recruit young people.

For the Bright Future

We are now constructing a “dream factory” under the theme of “**Lean, Green and Compact**” with thorough consideration of reducing environmental impact.

In pursuit of these goals, we hope to do something innovative in industrial coating. As a matter of fact, the fundamental principles of spray painting technology, the most standard method of industrial coating technology, were developed 135 years ago, and since then, the basic principles have continued to be used, although there have been improvements and refinements. Today, SDGs and carbon neutrality are considered more than before, and we are in an era that requires innovation.

Without FILSTAR®, it is impossible for us to work productively. We will continue to work with industria through trial and error to achieve for the bright future.