



Reverse Distribution of Shipping Spools

Facility Description

Genie Products, Inc. is a machine shop that produces precision replacement parts, torch assemblies, hoses, cables, and consumables for the thermal spray industry.

Recycling Program for Shipping Spools

Genie Products, Inc. has traditionally recycled metal by-products. One of the few remaining materials in their waste stream included bulky, plastic spools on which shipments of hose were delivered. In 2010, Genie sought assistance from Waste Reduction Partners to see if there were recycling markets for these plastic spools. Before looking for a plastics recycler, Waste Reduction Partners assessor, Ross Akin, investigated the possibility of shipping these spools back to Genie's supplier, Asheville Hose. Asheville Hose agreed to backhaul the used spools when they brought new shipments of hose to Genie Products. Ideally, these spools are reused, but if they cannot be reused, the spools are sent with other Asheville Hose spools to a local industrial plastics recycler.

This reverse distribution method works well for small to medium-size businesses. It is more attractive for the local plastics recycler to collect the spools in larger volumes from a central location point, Asheville Hose, than from each of Asheville Hose's customers.

Keys to Success

The success of the plastic spool recycling effort was due to the willingness of Genie Products' management and staff to find a way to keep these materials out of the waste stream, as well as the willingness of Asheville Hose to add value to their service to Genie Products.

Waste Reduction and Savings

Even though Genie Products generates only 12-15 spools per month, these spools are bulky enough to take up a significant amount of space, approximately 2-4 cubic yards, in their trash dumpster. Keeping the spools out of the dumpster prevents Genie from having to increase the frequency and cost of their waste collection.

Type of Facility:

Machine Shop

Present Owners Recycling Since:

2003



Recycles:

Copper, Brass, Steel, Plastic Spools

Monthly Recycling Stats:

75 lbs. of plastic spools

Cost of Recycling Services vs. Disposal Costs:

There is no cost to recycle the plastic spools. This results in a savings on Genie's waste disposal costs, which are roughly \$225 per month.

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