

POWDER COATING WEEK 2026 | INDIANAPOLIS, IN • MARCH 2-4, 2026

POWDER COATED TOUGH

The Official Publication of the Powder Coating Institute®

2026 Buyers Guide

November/December 2025

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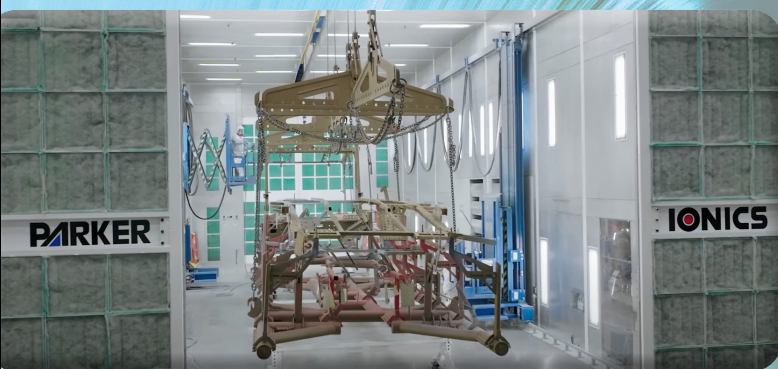
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 High-Reflectance
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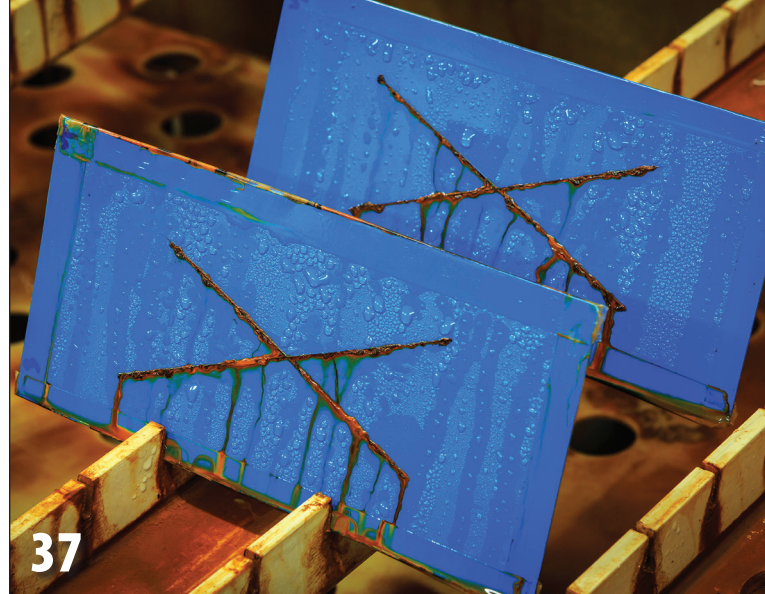
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Steve Ladatto



Embracing Custodianship, Collaboration, and the Future of Powder Coating

It is an honor to introduce myself as the new technical director of the Powder Coating Institute. Stepping into this role is both a privilege and a responsibility—one that carries with it the weight of our industry's proud history, its present challenges, and its boundless future. Powder coating has never simply been a finishing technology. It is a craft, a science, and a collaborative endeavor that continues to shape how our industries think about durability, sustainability, and design freedom.

In my new position, my primary objective is to support our community of professionalism, sharing, and trust. PCI is unique in that it brings together companies and individuals who, in the marketplace, often find themselves as competitors. Yet within PCI, we are not rivals—we are custodians of technology, architects of progress, and mentors to the next generation. As we cultivate this mindset, the Institute will remain the standard-bearer for excellence in powder coating.

Our role is not only to preserve what has been achieved but to continually improve and enrich the technical content that underpins our industry. Every formulation, application method, pretreatment process, and testing protocol contributes to the collective body of knowledge we must safeguard. By ensuring that our technical guidance is robust and accessible, we empower fabricators, applicators, and OEMs to meet ever-evolving demands for quality, safety, and performance.

Serving our members with technical support and insight is a priority. Whether addressing inquiries from applicators troubleshooting lines, advising engineers on environmental requirements, or clarifying emerging

standards, PCI must be the go-to source for reliable information. To that end, I look forward to working alongside our committees and staff, contributing expertise in support of their important initiatives.

Training and education remain a core component of what PCI provides to the powder coating industry. The workforce of tomorrow depends on us to deliver traditional best practices as well as curricula that reflect emerging trends. My focus will be on guiding our training programs to recommend content that prepares students and professionals for what lies ahead. From novel chemistries and smart curing systems to evolving environmental standards, our training must anticipate the future, not merely reflect the past.

The future of our industry rests in the hands of tomorrow's innovators. Through the PCI Scholarship Program, we can inspire and support students at U.S. colleges and universities—especially those pursuing coating and polymer science—fulfilling our duty as mentors for tomorrow and nurturing the talent that will lead us into new frontiers.

In summary, the task before us is not small—but it is exciting! As members of PCI, we are entrusted with more than organizational roles. We are stewards of knowledge, shapers of the art, and mentors for those who will one day carry this torch further than we can imagine. I look forward to walking this path with you, side by side, as we continue to advance the science and spirit of powder coating.

Steve Ladatto
Technical Director
The Powder Coating Institute

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Covestro Expands Advanced Production Technology for PFAS-free Superdurable Flexible Powder Coating Resin in APAC >>



Covestro has expanded production of its PFAS-free superdurable flexible powder coating polyester (Uralac® Premium P 8000 and P 9000) to the Asia-Pacific region, addressing global climate challenges and evolving regulatory requirements on PFAS. The company's Pingtung site will now supply this environmental solution, which outperforms conventional superdurable polyester resins while effectively extending the service life of GSB Premium building materials and heavy equipment for agricultural, construction, and earthmoving applications. Now, through localized supply, the initiative further reduces the carbon footprint from long-distance transportation, supporting Covestro's "Sustainable Future" strategy and implementing its commitment to achieve Scope 3 climate neutrality by 2050.

"International regulations continue to drive the transformation of industrial materials," said Tina Jin, business director of powder coating resins Asia at Covestro. "Covestro is committed to developing next-generation coating resins that combine environmental sustainability with high performance, actively addressing industry innovations alongside our customers. This leading solution has been produced and promoted in Europe since 2023, and we are pleased to see the Asia-Pacific region now offering customer-centric services with both reliable local supply and sustainable value."

"The Pingtung site's vacuum process, after six months of equipment upgrades, now meets the stringent quality requirements for this product," said CF Tsai, Covestro's Pingtung site manager. "As the first production site in Asia-Pacific to supply this product, we will build on our

foundation in Taiwan to serve the Asia-Pacific region, while also supporting North American market demands."

Covestro's next-generation outdoor powder coating solution, Uralac® Premium P 8000 and P 9000, as PFAS-free coating polyesters, can replace fluorocarbon systems (PVDF/FEVE) for weather-resistant resins. Combining the advantages of amorphous superdurable polyester P 8000 and crystalline polyester P 9000, this solution overcomes the challenge of balancing flexibility and mechanical strength that conventional superdurable polyester resins struggle with. Laboratory testing confirms its excellent outdoor durability, flow properties, gloss retention, flexibility, as well as good powder storage stability and water spotting resistance. The solution is currently undergoing internationally recognized Florida outdoor exposure testing, with long-term performance expected to surpass existing superdurable coating systems.

Beyond its exceptional performance, the solution offers processing advantages as well, with production possible under curing conditions of 180°C (356°F)/15 minutes, compatible with standard powder coating lines without requiring additional equipment investment.

Under its Sustainable Future strategy, Covestro is actively enhancing supply chain reliability and continuously developing innovative products that address international sustainability trends, while contributing to the Group's Scope 1, 2, and 3 emission reduction targets and timelines, gradually realizing its vision of fully circular.



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British Coatings Federation Issues Statement on EU TiO₂ Court Case: Victory for Common Sense >>



BCF
British Coatings
Federation

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has dismissed an appeal from the European Commission and France against its 2022 ruling on Titanium Dioxide (TiO₂).

The 2022 ruling from the ECJ sided with the case brought by the Titanium Dioxide Manufacturers' Association (TDMA)—with British Coatings Federation (BCF), European Coatings, Paints and Printing Ink Manufacturers' Association (CEPE), and the American Coatings Association acting as interveners on behalf of the coatings industry—and annulled the original classification of TiO₂ as carcinogenic category 2 by inhalation. TiO₂ is a unique and essential raw material for the manufacture of paints, medicinal products, foodstuffs, and toys, among other products.

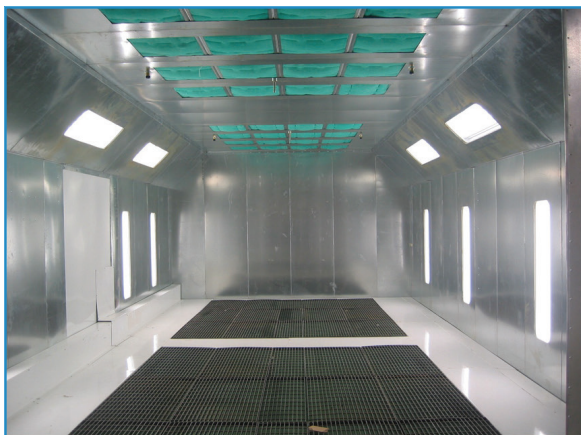
This has been a battle that the industry has been fighting as a priority since March 2015, when the French authorities

first tabled their concerns that TiO₂ was a carcinogenic substance.

Responding to the decision of the European Court of Justice, Tom Bowtell, CEO of BCF, said, "This is excellent news and vindicates the decision of BCF, CEPE, and the American Coatings Association to support the TiO₂ industry in opposing the original classification, which, in the industry's view, was not based on sound science. The ECJ upholding its initial ruling will be of practical benefit to members in the coatings industry. We are therefore delighted with the outcome and hope it brings the matter to an end, giving companies certainty about a key raw material for the sector. It is also worth stating that this is an important outcome in terms of precedent. If the TiO₂ decision and methodology used for the decision were extrapolated, other substances may have also been treated the same way. So, a good win for a united industry all working together."



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GARDCO Announces Global Transition to PFAS-free Products >>



Paul N. Gardner
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physical and inspection instruments for the paint, coatings, and related industries, is proud to announce a major sustainability milestone: their global phase-out of PFAS containing products, effective December 31, 2025. This strategic move aligns GARDCO with emerging international regulations and market expectations, while underscoring their commitment to environment and customer wellbeing.

PFAS, known as “forever chemicals” for their persistence in the environment, accumulative nature, and ecological toxicity, have become the focus of increasingly strict regulations worldwide. Several individual PFAS compounds, such as PFOA and PFOS, are already restricted, and the European Union has set the first group-wide ban. James Fusco, product manager, Paul N. Gardner Company (GARDCO) states, “Due to restrictions under chemical regulations there was an urgent need to phase out the PFAS products in our portfolio. Our decision is driven by an urgent need to protect sustainability, comply with global laws, and meet the needs of our customers.”

The transition to PFAS-free products offers numerous advantages including the elimination of highly persistent and toxic chemicals in the environment which helps protect ecosystems, alignment of GARDCO with global standards, new business opportunities with customers seeking PFAS-free solutions, reduction of regulatory workload across departments improving organizational sustainability, and improved market perception through the elimination of toxic chemicals.

GARDCO’s PFAS phase-out began in June 2024 with initial communications and planning. Key milestones included an initial phase-out

of products with no sales/stock by September 1, 2024, and completion of final PFAS products production by December 31, 2024. Full transition to PFAS-free status is anticipated by December 31, 2025.

All products that contain Teflon (Teflon applicators, Teflon-coated thermometers, disperser blades, etc.) will be affected.

GARDCO’s technical teams are committed to seamlessly managing the transition and ensuring customers experience no interruption in service or product performance. Effective non-stick alternatives to PFAS such as Cerakote and other substitute materials are already in place for the affected product lines. The process includes close monitoring, regular customer updates, and the introduction of innovative, sustainable formulations that deliver the same trusted results without environmental compromise.

The GARDCO team is dedicated to transparent communication with customers, suppliers, and the public throughout this transition. Coordinated global outreach ensures that every customer is informed and supported during this change.

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2026

JANUARY 20-21

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Minneapolis, MN

FEBRUARY 3-4

Powder Coating 202
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MARCH 2-4

Powder Coating Week 2026
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MAY 5-6

Powder Coating 202
Powder Coating Done Right: Advanced
Plymouth, MI

JULY 14-15

Powder Coating 101
Powder Coating Done Right: The Basics
Greensboro, NC

For more information and/or to register for any of these events, go to www.powdercoating.org and click on the Events tab.

Diamond Vogel Announces Strategic Shift in Architectural Coatings Market >>



Diamond Vogel is implementing a strategic transformation in its approach to the architectural coatings market. As part of this shift, the company is divesting its company-owned retail stores that primarily serve painting contractors, homeowners, and maintenance professionals. Spectrum Paint has agreed to acquire Diamond Vogel's architectural paint business across eleven locations and will assume operations at eight stores in central Iowa. Spectrum plans to continue operations at these sites and retain most of the employees.

"In today's evolving retail landscape, success demands continuous innovation and focus," said Jeff Powell, CEO of Diamond Vogel. "Our strength lies in paint manufacturing, and we recognized the need to reinvest in our core capabilities rather than retail operations. We're pleased to partner with Spectrum Paint, a company known for delivering exceptional customer experiences. Spectrum will continue to offer our premium architectural paints and coatings to the market."

As Diamond Vogel exits the retail space, the company is refocusing its efforts on serving industrial customers through a new industrial service center model. This initiative is

Diamond Vogel is implementing a

designed to meet the needs of manufacturers nationwide by offering local inventory support, dedicated color matching, and timely order fulfillment. Twelve existing Diamond Vogel locations will be upgraded to support this new model.

Diamond Vogel remains committed to producing high-quality architectural paints, which will continue to be available through their acquisition partners. "Manufacturing is at the heart of who we are," Powell added. "This strategic move allows us to return to our roots and reinvest in what we do best—making exceptional coatings."

The company is currently in discussions with potential buyers for its remaining architectural paint-focused retail locations.

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Global Finishing Solutions Marks 50th Anniversary >>



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This year, Global Finishing Solutions (GFS) proudly marks its 50th anniversary in Osseo, WI, celebrating five decades of designing and manufacturing high-performance paint booths and finishing systems for a wide range of industries.

Founded in 1975 as a small, family-owned business originally known as JBI, GFS has evolved into a global leader in finishing technology. GFS equipment is trusted in repair shops, manufacturing plants, and aviation facilities around the globe, helping businesses increase productivity and achieve flawless finishes.

“Reaching 50 years is more than a milestone. It’s a reflection of the people, values, and partnerships that define GFS,” said Matt Stillings, CEO and president of Curran Group, the Illinois-based holding company that has owned GFS since 1998. “We’re proud of the legacy we’ve built, and we’re just as excited for the future.”

Throughout its growth, GFS has remained grounded in the core principles it was built on—family, respect, partnership, integrity, and improvement. These values have guided the company’s innovation, product development, and customer relationships, and continue to drive its mission today.

Arkema, AkzoNobel, and BASF Team Up to Lower Carbon Footprint of Architectural Powder Coatings >>



The carbon footprint of superdurable architectural powder coatings supplied by AkzoNobel’s Interpon brand is up to 40% lower versus the former carbon footprint calculated for these products, thanks to an ongoing value chain partnership with Arkema and BASF. It means the superdurable Interpon D range can now make an even bigger impact in helping to reduce embodied carbon over the whole lifecycle of a building.

The improvement has been made possible through a combination of using supplier-specific product carbon footprint (PCF) data and sourcing bio-attributed raw materials. Previously, carbon footprint calculations were made on the basis of generic industry averages for polyester resins. By using supplier-specific PCF data instead, these calculations are now more accurate, as they better reflect important variables, such as investments made in process efficiencies and the use of renewable electricity by the partners involved.

Further benefits are gained by using bio-attributed raw materials from BASF which have a PCF of zero. Arkema transforms these bio-attributed raw materials to reduce the carbon footprint of low and standard temperature cure superdurable powder coating resins for AkzoNobel. The three partners have published an industry case study to offer further insights into the transition to lower carbon footprint powder coatings, including details of the methodology and calculations used.

“This collaboration is a major step forward for the paints and coatings industry,” explains Jeff Jirak, director of AkzoNobel’s powder coatings business. “Our customers require solutions that support their environmental goals and green building certification. By working across the value chain, we’re taking meaningful steps towards carbon footprint reduction, while also demonstrating our unwavering commitment to sustainability.”

Vasilios Galanos, senior vice president, Intermediates Europe, for BASF adds, “This initiative reflects our commitment to offering more sustainable solutions through innovation and collaboration. Our vision is to be the preferred partner for sustainable intermediates for our customers. By supplying neopentyl glycol (NPG) in a biomass-balanced version manufactured with renewable electricity (NPG ZeroPCF), we’re supporting our value chain partners in advancing their sustainability objectives while at the same time contributing to achieving our own vision.”

Continues Richard Jenkins, senior vice president coating solutions and member of the executive committee at Arkema, “By leveraging renewable bio-attribution via mass balance and sustainable innovations, we enable continuous improvement in low temperature cure and higher durability solutions. Even more is achievable in terms of mainstream decarbonization along the value chain. Together, we’re developing next generation powder coating solutions with lower carbon emissions for the building and construction sector.”

The color collections and Low-E architectural powder coatings produced by Interpon in Europe—all of which are superdurable—now use reduced emission bio-attributed material. This means they can play a major role in helping to lower the carbon footprint of the built environment.

The three parties are planning more collaboration across the value chain and welcome a broader network of partners to accelerate the paint and coatings industry’s transformation towards a more sustainable future.

North American Battery Application Center Drives EV Innovation >>



Henkel has officially opened its new North America Battery Application Center in Madison Heights, MI, further strengthening the company's regional support for OEMs and battery manufacturers with advanced material application capabilities for EV components. The opening follows the success of Henkel's Battery Engineering Center in Düsseldorf, Germany, which launched in 2023, and includes a Battery Application Center and Battery Test Center.

Equipped with a six-axis, high-capacity robot that replicates an industrial-scale environment, the North America Battery Application Center enables Henkel's robust team of

application engineering experts to work collaboratively with customers to quickly iterate changes and ensure optimal application parameters, such as application speed, dispense volume, temperature, path accuracy, and more. Optimizing material application prior to manufacturing scale-up helps to prevent delays and reduces the need for costly rework once production begins.

Application testing capabilities are available across a wide range of solutions and chemistry types, including thermal interface materials, sealants, structural adhesives, and debonding-on-demand adhesives. Material solutions help ensure high-performing, safe, and sustainable electric vehicles.

Sames Canada Becomes Independent Subsidiary >>



Sames North America is proud to announce that effective October 1, 2025, Canadian operations officially transitioned into a standalone subsidiary under the new name Sames Canada Industrial Ltd.

This strategic move reflects their continued commitment to strengthening regional operations and enhancing service

delivery across North America. As an independent entity, Sames Canada Industrial Ltd. will have greater agility to serve local market needs, expand customer support, and drive innovation tailored to Canadian industries.

Customers and partners can expect a seamless transition, with continued access to the same trusted team, products, and services.

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stow Group to Create 200 Jobs in Gordon County, Georgia >>



Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp announced that stow Group, a leading industrial storage and automation solution company, will invest \$36 million to establish a new manufacturing presence and create approximately 200 new jobs in Gordon County.

Based in Belgium, stow manufactures industrial racking systems and develops customized warehouse and storage solutions. The company is currently expanding into the U.S. and serves clients in logistics, food and beverage, life sciences, and other industries.

"This new production facility in Georgia will further strengthen stow's presence and support network in North America and bring us closer to existing and new customers," said Jos De Vuyst, CEO of stow Group. "Expanding our production footprint in the U.S. is a key milestone for stow Group. The new facility in Gordon County will allow us to

serve our customers faster, enhance our local partnerships, and continue our commitment to innovation and sustainability."

"I am very excited to ramp up a highly automated production plant with the latest technologies in rack manufacturing," said Michael Morgenroth, plant manager at stow U.S. "Together with the State of Georgia and Gordon County, we are already working on training plans. We believe this will offer great career development opportunities for anyone in the local workforce who is interested in steel manufacturing."

The company's new manufacturing operations will comprise 240,000 square feet of an existing building along Highway 41 near Adairsville. Operations are expected to begin in 2026. The company will be hiring for production roles related to profiling, stamping, welding, powder coating, automation, and assembly as well as logistics, administrative, and management roles.



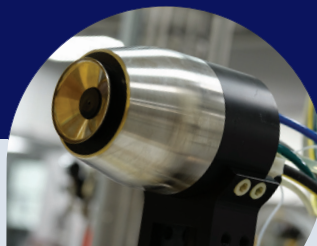
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Winona Powder Coating Names Vice President of Operations



Muzzin

Winona Powder Coating has announced the addition of Rob Muzzin to its team. Muzzin will serve as the new vice president of operations.

"Rob brings over 25 years of leadership in manufacturing and operations and has been heavily involved in industrial and Tier One automotive production and metal treatment," said Jamie Visker, chief executive officer of Winona Powder Coating.

Muzzin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Kettering University, along with a master's degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Winona Powder Coating, headquartered in Etna Green, IN, also has a plant in Elkhart, IN. Winona is a leading provider of powder coating and e-coating services to a wide variety of industries. The company is certified by the International Organization for Standardization and Underwriters Laboratories and complies with automotive, agriculture, architectural, and military specifications.

Gema USA Inc. Welcomes Cameron Fehland as Territory Manager



Fehland

Gema USA Inc., a Graco Inc. company, is proud to announce the addition of Cameron Fehland as territory manager for the Midwest region. With

over a decade of experience in sales leadership, capital equipment consultation, and packaging automation, Cameron brings a strong track record of success in helping customers improve efficiency, drive ROI, and grow their business.

Cameron joins Gema following leadership roles at Tronics America, Swan Packaging, and CRF Solutions, where he focused on capital equipment

sales, packaging line design, and distributor development. He has extensive experience supporting both direct customers and rep networks, and brings a strong understanding of automation, ROI-driven solutions, and long-term client partnerships.

Cameron earned his bachelor's degree from Purdue University Northwest and completed a certificate in finance and accounting for the non-finance professional from Columbia University. He also served eight years in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he led infantry teams and collaborated on intelligence operations. His operational background, combined with fluency in Spanish, Pashto, and Arabic, enables him to engage diverse customer groups and communicate effectively in multicultural environments.

KOCH Finishing Systems Announces Amy England as 2025 H3 Lean Award Winner



England

As a project coordinator in their Grand Rapids, MI office, Amy England expertly handles engineering, purchasing, shop scheduling, software implementations, and much more. She's the go-to person colleagues rely on for strategic guidance and handling complex challenges.

Her unwavering positive attitude and willingness to always volunteer first for company events, from Angel Tree to company gatherings, make her exceptional. For years, Amy has quietly been responsible for so much of the good that happens at KOCH, working tirelessly without seeking recognition.

Amy's dedication to lean principles and commitment to operational excellence have significantly moved the needle in continuous improvement efforts. Everyone at KOCH loves working with her, and the company is proud to finally give her the recognition she deserves.

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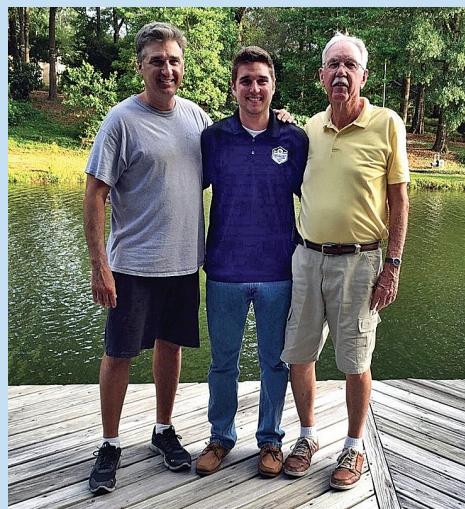
Coating Thickness Material Analysis
 Microhardness Material Testing

Remembering PCI Founding Member: Sam Dawson

On August 28, an email from Greg Dawson shared the passing of an industry titan, one of PCI's founding members, and his father, Sam Dawson.

Sam grew up in Griffin, GA, where he earned his pilot's license at just 15 years old. He joined the U.S. Air Force after high school and while serving, met his wife of 62 years, Josephine Mary Trinchera, on a blind date. Together they built a beautiful life rooted in family, joy, and service.

Following his military service, Sam began a more than 30-year career with Nordson Corporation and was instrumental in moving powder coating into the mainstream of the finishing industry. During his career, he mentored many in the industry and is best remembered for his special brand of Southern charm and wisdom. Sam retired from Nordson in 2000 as executive vice president of worldwide finishing operations and was inducted into PCI's



Top row, left to right: Sam and family at his son Greg's PCI Hall of Fame induction; Three generations of Dawsons in the finishing industry—Greg, Nick, and Sam.

Middle row, left to right: Chuck Johnson, Sam, and Ron Farrell; Sam and John Brvenik.

Bottom row, left to right: Bob Allsop, Sam, and Ron Farrell at a PCI Annual Meeting; PCI's founding meeting, with Sam back row, center-left.



inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2002.

Sam's passion for powder coating became a family affair with his son, Greg, and grandson, Nick, both joining the industry. Greg served on the PCI Board of Directors, was inducted into PCI's Hall of Fame in 2023, and retired from a successful career with Nordson. Nick joined the finishing industry straight out of college, is currently with Koch Finishing Systems, and is an active member of PCI.

Sam's retirement years were filled with what he most enjoyed—spending time with family, flying his L-10, and playing golf. He received the Wright Brothers Master Pilot award for 50+ years of safe piloting, was a member of the Quiet Birdmen, and served on the Board of Directors of the Air Force Armament Museum.

Learning of his passing, former Nordson and PCI colleagues passed along memories of Sam and the impact he had on them and the industry. Following, we share those memories with our readers.

As Sam's assistant, I managed logistics for his travels and on-site customer visits and found working with him both rewarding and influential in my own career at Nordson. He was a prominent figure in the powder coating industry and his unwavering commitment to customer care was the cornerstone of his success and the reason he was so highly regarded. This dedication was evident in every piece of correspondence that left his office. Moreover, the support of his allies was instrumental in Nordson's achievements in the powder coating industry. He was not only respected, but also cherished by his colleagues and those who collaborated with him, helping each of us grow professionally under his command. Sam looked forward to the many customer visits to our powder lab for demonstrations of our equipment, as well the comradery that came with entertaining potential customers. He put all of himself into each customer visit to our facility, even introducing many of us key to the success of their future as a Nordson customer.

Terrie Bauman, Nordson Corporation (retired)

When I started work at Nordson North American division headquarters outside Atlanta, my uncle Billy asked me if I met this Dawson person. Since Sam worked in Ohio, I did not meet him for a couple of months, but my uncle had shared with me Sam's leadership qualities and successes. When I finally met Sam in person, he did not disappoint. He always had a smile and true concern for the people who worked for him and with him. Over the years, there were many trips to Ohio for show meetings. He was always open to and supported new ideas for exhibiting at shows. Sam's passion was not limited to Nordson's success in the industry; he wanted the powder coating industry to succeed. He encouraged us to participate on committees and be stewards to the industry he loved.

Early in my career we were at a PCI meeting, and he invited me to join him and a few other board members for dinner. I was totally

shocked. We were having dinner with the "enemies," and yet they were friends. That lesson has stayed with me throughout my career, teaching not only the importance of caring for your people, but also that on the show floor we are one team. Over the years, I was able to represent Nordson on multiple committees in various industries where friendships developed and have carried me through my career.

During those visits to Ohio, Sam would always try to make time for lunch or dinner. If his schedule would not allow, he would be sure to spend time with me, even if he only had 10 minutes. Sam always took the time to hand write thank you notes, and he would sometimes call just to check in and make sure everything was going OK. These days that is so rare. So, it's his kindness and a smile that I will miss the most.

Kismet Fowler, Nordson Corporation

Sam Dawson played a critical role in not only the founding of the Powder Coating Institute (PCI), but in its tremendous growth and success achieved during his time at Nordson Corporation. Sam understood the important role PCI played in educating end-users on the correct selection and application of powder coatings. As a long-time board member and officer of PCI, Sam was a leader who possessed a great deal of common sense and pushed hard for PCI to achieve its goals for the betterment of the entire industry. During my long tenure as PCI's executive director, I considered Sam Dawson to be a leader, a mentor, a true southern gentleman, and most importantly, my friend whom I will greatly miss.

Greg Bocchi, former PCI Executive Director, PCI Hall of Famer

Sam Dawson, along with the other founding members of the Powder Coating Institute, had the vision, passion, and drive to demonstrate that an organization such as PCI, through commitment, cooperation, and healthy competition, could do so much more to promote powder coating than any single company could ever do. Sam set the standard and eagerness for generations of Nordson employees to follow in his footsteps and continue this philosophy and the important work of PCI.

Bob Allsop, Nordson Corporation (retired), PCI Hall of Famer

I met Sam more than 35 years ago when I managed PCI's conference and trade show for the first time. The biggest impression Sam made on me was that he was a strong leader who cared about his company, his co-workers, his industry, and all those he worked with to help the industry grow. While serving in high-level positions at both Nordson and the Powder Coating Institute, he always made everyone feel welcome and he took time to show his appreciation for what we did. He definitely was a true southern gentleman and will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him, including me.

Anne Goyer, Goyer Management International

In the spirit of Sam's generosity, those wishing to make a donation in Sam's memory may do so to the Alaqua Animal Refuge, The Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities.



Why Water Quality Matters in Powder Coating

By Marty Korecky

It is easy to take water for granted, especially if it comes out of the tap. We don't think twice about using it to cook, wash our dishes or our clothes, take a shower, or brush our teeth. For that matter, the older population reading this article might remember when we drank from the garden hose when we were younger. The water source we use at home is often fine for our needs, but that same water can have a negative impact on our powder coating processes.

We might get our water from the local municipality (city water), or we might get our water from a well (well water) and we use it and don't give it a second thought. Until that is, we have a problem. For example, we find that we have a ring around our bathtub, or maybe the faucet doesn't work the way it did when it was new. Sometimes as the seasons change, we notice the water tastes a little different, and we think about getting one of those water filter pitchers to put in the refrigerator. For those of us who travel, we find that in some locations we have trouble lathering up in the shower, or conversely, we feel like we can't rinse the soap off. So, what's going on?

What's In Your Water?

The issue at hand is water quality. Chemically speaking, water consists of hydrogen and oxygen (H₂O), but the water we use contains impurities. These impurities include dissolved solids such as calcium, barium, lead, sodium, radon, and zinc, just to name a few. In addition to these dissolved solids, our water can contain runoff from fertilizers, pesticides, manufacturing chemicals, roadway deicing materials, etc. Other contaminants can find their way into our water as well, such as medications that were flushed down the toilet and have dissolved into our water stream. Many municipalities have been adding fluoride to the water to reduce tooth decay and cavities.

Well water isn't immune to many of the same contaminants as municipal water. Impurities in well water are different in different parts of the country. The soil is different, the agriculture is different, the climate is different. The one thing that remains consistent is that there are varying types and amounts of contaminants in our water.

The only way to know the true quality of our water is to have a water analysis done. It is recommended to have more than one water analysis done each year. As the seasons change, so do the chemicals we use. Municipalities are required to provide an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. It should provide information such as radioactive contaminants, inorganic contaminants, disinfectants and disinfection byproducts, and lead and copper levels. They only report what is required by law, so I would still recommend hiring an independent lab to test the water, not just to compare, but to see what other contaminants are found.

Why Does Water Matter?

But how does all of this relate to powder coating and the products we manufacture? Many of the products we manufacture are used outdoors. Often, we list in our specifications the

corrosion protection of the product. The quality of our water dictates corrosion protection just as much as the powder we use and other critical factors.

Let's look at a common part and follow it through production. The mill creates the substrate, and a passivation material is applied so the metal doesn't begin to corrode before it gets to the manufacturer who is going to use it to make parts or products. In most cases, the substrate is loaded on a truck and driven to the manufacturer. During transportation the substrate is subjected to various environmental conditions and bound to pick up additional chemicals. The metal is then cut, bent, drilled, machined, etc., into the part we are going to coat. And during that process we may have added cutting oils/lubricants, laser smut, or weldments, all of which we have to remove before we powder coat the part.

Off to the pretreatment system. Let's assume the process uses a 5-stage system with the first stage being a cleaner, followed by rinses. At some point, we may add a conversion coating or a dry-in-place pretreatment. For the stages that are not water rinses, we add chemicals to the water at a given percentage—which in most cases is less than 7% by volume. That means that 93% of our bath is simply water. That also means that no matter how good the chemicals are, the water quality will dictate the level of corrosion protection you will get on your parts.

The contaminants we discussed earlier are still in the water even after you add chemicals to your pretreatment tanks. Those contaminants dry onto the parts and become the spot where premature corrosion begins. Powder coatings are permeable to air and moisture. That means a powder coating will allow air and moisture to penetrate the coating. As



Photo used with permission from Thermo-Tron-X, Inc.

A reverse osmosis system removes contaminants like heavy metals, chemicals, and microscopic impurities from water before use in the manufacturing process.

moisture encounters the contaminants, oxidation begins, and part failure will soon follow.

Many years ago, I was giving a presentation and started talking about water quality. One attendee from a very reputable OEM offered a story. She said she was able to get between 600 and 1,200 hours of salt spray on her parts using a 5-stage pretreatment system with a halo at the end. She was using city water. When asked why such a large range, it was due to the incoming city water. Depending on the time of year, the water quality would change so much that it impacted the results that drastically. Her solution was to install a reverse osmosis (RO) water treatment system to remove much of the contamination, providing much more consistent water quality. She said her salt spray results have since improved and they are now able to pass 2,000 hours of salt spray consistently.

Measuring and Improving Water Quality

When I first started my career in the powder coating industry, we measured water by total dissolved solids (TDS). It was a fast and efficient method, and we didn't need computers (...we didn't have computers). Automation has driven much of what we do in manufacturing, so measuring water quality by conductivity or resistivity has become the new way to test the quality of water.

The most useful ways to measure water are listed below:

- Conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) or Resistivity ($\text{M}\Omega \times \text{cm}$).
- Total dissolved solids (TDS).

- Total organic carbon (TOC).
- Microbial contaminants (CFU/ml).

There are several ways to improve your water quality. Water softeners will remove minerals like calcium, barium, and magnesium that cause hard water. The issue with a water softener is that it uses sodium or potassium (salt) to remove the minerals. Adding salt to your water may not provide the level of corrosion protection you require.

Deionized water is a very common method to increase water quality. It uses filters to remove a wide range of contaminants, including dissolved solids, bacteria, and heavy metals. The system won't remove everything, but it will remove most of what causes headaches in the finishing industry.

Deionized water systems are available in three versions:

- Type 1 (Ultrapure) – used in critical applications where little to no contaminants are acceptable.
- Type 2 (General or Lab Grade) – suitable for laboratories and places that require a very high level of purity.
- Type 3 (RO Grade) – produces the same high-water quality as a reverse osmosis system.

Reverse osmosis systems push water through membranes to remove a high percentage of dissolved salts and organics, producing very clean water that can help chemistries perform predictably while potentially reducing chemical usage. RO can be scaled to plant-size and, when combined with downstream deionization, offers near-ideal rinse water for high-end finishes.

The level of water quality you require should be dictated by specification. If your current water quality is such that it meets your requirements, consider yourself fortunate. If it does not meet your requirements, you should investigate purchasing a system to improve your water quality. In any case, having your water tested on a regular basis is an inexpensive way to keep tabs on one critical facet of your process.

Before making any changes to your process, always perform testing to benchmark your system. Test changes you make to see if they add value to your operation before finalizing those changes. Always utilize reputable and reproducible test procedures in your decision-making process. And finally, utilize your industry experts as resources. They are a great source of knowledge and insight.

Marty Korecky is owner of MJ Korecky Consulting, LLC.



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Continued on page 22

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Henkel Corporation

Kolene Corporation

LS Industries

Reliant Finishing Systems

WestChem Technologies Inc.

Combustion Systems

General Fabrications Corporation

LS Industries

Reliant Finishing Systems

TITAN Catalytic

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Cooling

GAT Finishing Systems

General Fabrications Corporation

IntelliFinishing

LS Industries

RTT Engineered Solutions

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Deburring Equipment

LS Industries

Decoration/Decals

Schreiner ProTech

Dehumidifiers

General Fabrications Corporation

RTT Engineered Solutions

Deionizers/Demineralizers

General Fabrications Corporation

Environmental Rooms

GAT Finishing Systems

General Fabrications Corporation

Global Finishing Solutions

IntelliFinishing

KOCH Finishing Systems

LS Industries

Midwest Finishing Systems, Inc.

RTT Engineered Solutions

Therma-Tron-X, Inc.

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

United Finishing Systems LLC

Etchants

Henkel Corporation

WestChem Technologies Inc.

Fans/Blowers

Fostoria Infrared

GAT Finishing Systems

General Fabrications Corporation

Global Finishing Solutions

LS Industries

Reliant Finishing Systems

RTT Engineered Solutions

Therma-Tron-X, Inc.

TITAN Catalytic

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Filters

BASF/Chemetall

Digilube Systems

GAT Finishing Systems

Gema USA Inc.

General Fabrications Corporation

Global Finishing Solutions

LS Industries

Nordson Corporation

Reliant Finishing Systems

RTT Engineered Solutions

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Fire/Explosion Detection Systems

Gema USA Inc.

LS Industries

Nordson Corporation

Hangers/Hooks/Racks

Caplugs/Shercon

LS Industries

Magic Rack / Production Plus

Mighty Hook, Inc.

TITAN Catalytic

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

United Finishing Systems LLC

Heat Exchangers

GAT Finishing Systems

General Fabrications Corporation

Reliant Finishing Systems

TITAN Catalytic

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Lighting

General Fabrications Corporation

Global Finishing Solutions

LS Industries

RTT Engineered Solutions

Masking Supplies, Caps

Caplugs/Shercon

Essentra Components

LS Industries

Mighty Hook, Inc.

MOCAP

Masking Supplies, Custom

Caplugs/Shercon

Essentra Components

Frank Lowe

LS Industries

Magic Rack / Production Plus

Mighty Hook, Inc.

MOCAP

Schreiner ProTech

Masking Supplies, Plugs

Caplugs/Shercon

Essentra Components

LS Industries

Mighty Hook, Inc.

MOCAP

Masking Supplies, Tapes

Caplugs/Shercon

Essentra Components

Frank Lowe

LS Industries

Mighty Hook, Inc.

MOCAP

Schreiner ProTech

Masking Supplies, Tubing and Cord

Essentra Components

LS Industries

Mighty Hook, Inc.

MOCAP

Mixers/Blenders

General Fabrications Corporation
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.

Personnel Lifts

Gema USA Inc.
General Fabrications Corporation
RTT Engineered Solutions

Polishing Media

LS Industries

Polishing/Sanding/Buffering Equipment

LS Industries

RTT Engineered Solutions

Process Management

BASF/Chemetall
General Fabrications Corporation
Kontek Process Water Management
LS Industries
Reliant Finishing Systems
Sames
Steelhead Technologies
Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Protective Clothing

Elcometer, Inc.
Frank Lowe

Respiratory Supplies

Elcometer, Inc.

Rust Removers/Inhibitors

BASF/Chemetall
Henkel Corporation
LS Industries

Reliant Finishing Systems
WestChem Technologies Inc.

Software Systems

Sames
Steelhead Technologies

Steam Cleaning

Reliant Finishing Systems
Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Stripping Equipment, Aqueous or Dry Blasting

LS Industries
Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Stripping Equipment, Burn-Off Ovens

LS Industries
Pollution Control Products
Reliant Finishing Systems
Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Stripping Equipment, Fluidized Sand

Dinamex Systems
Kolene Corporation

Stripping Equipment, Salt Baths

Kolene Corporation

Stripping Equipment, Solvent

Kolene Corporation

Tanks

Digilube Systems
GAT Finishing Systems
General Fabrications Corporation
KOCH Finishing Systems
Kolene Corporation
LS Industries

Therma-Tron-X, Inc.

Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
United Finishing Systems LLC

Temperature Control Equipment

BYK-Gardner USA
LS Industries
Pollution Control Products
RTT Engineered Solutions
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.
Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Temperature Profiling Equipment

BYK-Gardner USA

Touch Up Paint, Aerosol

Sherwin-Williams Company

Touch Up Paint, Liquid Spray

Sherwin-Williams Company

Ultrasonic Cleaning Equipment

LS Industries
Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Vacuum Cleaning Equipment

General Fabrications Corporation

Valves

Elcometer, Inc.
General Fabrications Corporation

Waste Treatment

KOCH Finishing Systems
Kontek Process Water Management
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.
Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

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Powder Coating

ChemQuest Powder Coating Research
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Industrial Finishing Solutions LLC
Orr & Boss Consulting Incorporated
Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined Finishing Company

Product Development

ChemQuest Powder Coating Research
Danick Specialties & Support Inc.
Industrial Finishing Solutions LLC
Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined Finishing Company

Software

Bluestreak | Bright AM
Industrial Finishing Solutions LLC
Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined Finishing Company

System Design

Industrial Finishing Solutions LLC
Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined Finishing Company

Technical Training

ChemQuest Powder Coating Research
Danick Specialties & Support Inc.
Industrial Finishing Solutions LLC
Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined Finishing Company

Third Party Testing

ChemQuest Powder Coating Research
Danick Specialties & Support Inc.
Industrial Finishing Solutions LLC
Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined Finishing Company

Troubleshooting

ChemQuest Powder Coating Research
Danick Specialties & Support Inc.
Industrial Finishing Solutions LLC
Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined Finishing Company



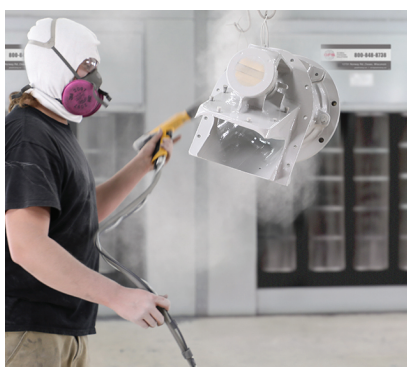
GLOBAL
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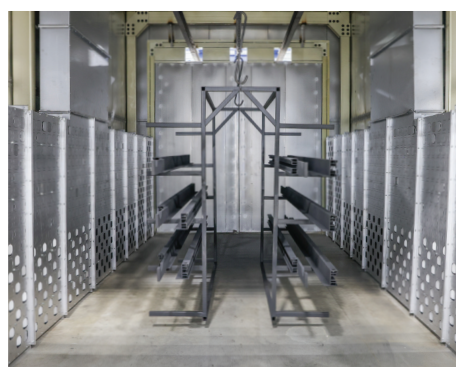
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POWDER CURING



Global Finishing Solutions (GFS) offers a full line of reliable, high-performance equipment for batch powder coating, including washers for surface preparation, powder booths and curing ovens. Designed for small- to medium-sized production runs, GFS Batch Powder Coating Systems help you prep, coat and cure efficiently, delivering consistent, high-quality finishes with improved throughput.

Each component is designed for seamless integration and easy part flow, making it simple to move carts or racks in and out of every stage. By bringing powder coating in-house, you can improve quality control, reduce lead times and see a return on investment in less than a year. Whether you are launching a new operation or upgrading an existing setup, GFS is your single-source solution.

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UNITED STATES

Alabama

Premiere Powder Coating

California

Alum-A-Coat
Bradford Powder Coating
Fusion Coatings, Inc.
Gemtech Coatings
Ikon Powder Coating, Inc.
Inland Powder Coating
Master Powder Coating Inc.
Pacific Powder Coating, Inc.
PT Powder Coat
Star Finishes Inc.

Colorado

CW Elaborations
Powder Coating Specialties, Inc.

Connecticut

Compass Powder Coating LLC

Florida

Custom Industrial Products
Eastern Metal Supply
Excell Coatings, Inc.
Florida Fence Products
Pro Powder Coating, Inc.

Georgia

Benise-Dowling Powder Coating
Blackwell's Inc./Specialty Metal
Coating Division
Eagle Parts & Products, Inc.
Georgia Powder Coating Inc.
ProCoat Powder Coatings
RayPaul Coating, Inc.
Two State Construction

Hawaii

CoaterFX

Idaho

Coatings Plus
Premier Powder Coating & Custom
Fabrication, LLC

Illinois

Acme Finishing, LLC
Americana Industrial Coatings
B.L. Downey Company LLC
Core Finishing, Inc.
KVF Quad Corporation
Larsen Powder Coating
Micron Metal Finishing
Plastisol Products, Inc.
S & B Finishing Co., Inc.

Indiana

Amrosia Powder Coating LLC
Beacon Industries, Inc.
Carrara Industries, Inc.
IDS Blast
M&S Industrial Metal Fabricators Inc.
Rush Powder Coatings, Inc.
Winona Powder Coating

Kansas

Anchor Fabrication Kansas
BEPC
HMC
Salina Vortex Corporation
Webco Manufacturing Inc.

Kentucky

Exacta Solutions LLC

Louisiana

Advanced Powder Coating
Martin Specialty Coatings, LLC
Powderdat
Quality Works of Southwest
Louisiana LLC

Maine

GDL Powder Coating

Maryland

AFI Powder Coating
Chesapeake Coating Inc.

Massachusetts

Westside Finishing Co.

Michigan

Albar Industries
Anchor Bay Powder Coat LLC
Artistic Diseños Inc.
Diesel Freak LLC
Powder Masters LLC
Protective Coating Associates
Rapid-Line

Minnesota

Associated Finishing, Inc.
D & K Powder Coating
Data Metalcraft, Inc.
Douglas Finishing
Industrial Finishing Services, Inc.
Twin City Powder Coating

Missouri

Hi5 Metal Fab
Metaltech Products, Inc.
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Deloka, LLC

North CarolinaChampion Powder Coating
Matlab, Inc.
R & R Powder Coating, Inc.**North Dakota**

Powdercoat Specialists

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DVUV
Dynamic Coatings
Greenfield Products, Inc.
Parker Trutec, Inc.
PPG Coatings Services
Sewah Studios
Simcote Inc.
Spectrum Metal Finishing, Inc.
Thomarios**Oklahoma**

ABITL Finishing Inc.

PennsylvaniaApplied Powder & Coatings, Inc.
BRIGHTSMITH Coaters
Ingham's Powder Coating
Keystone Koting LLC
Lane Enterprises, Inc.
NYPRAK Industries LLC**South Carolina**

Comfab, Inc.

TennesseeABJ Custom Powder Coating
PowderworX615, LLC
Prime Powder Coating
ProCoat Metals LLC
Pro-Kote, LLC**Texas**3P Industries, Inc.
AZZ Surface Technologies
Fab Tex Innovations
Katy Spring & Mfg., Inc.
Sickkoatz**Utah**Powder Coatings of Utah
Smith Powder Coating**Virginia**American Stripping Company
ASCO
SJS Industrial**Washington**American Structures & Design Inc.
Fence Specialists
Skagit Powder Coating**Wisconsin**All-Color Powder Coating, Inc.
Blast Shop, The
Classic Coatings, Inc.
Everbrite, LLC
Rocket Powder Coating
Scotts Industrial Coatings**Wyoming**

Imperial Powder Coating

AUSTRALIAACT Powder Coating Services
Multicoat Pty Ltd.**CANADA****Manitoba**

Red River Mega Coats

OntarioARC Coatings
Colourific Coatings Ltd.
Ontario Coatings**Nova Scotia**

Versa Coatings

SPAIN

FERCARE, S.A.

PCI 3000 Certified companies listed
with:PCI Certification is an extensive audit
program that evaluates powder coating
processes and procedures, equipment,
maintenance practices, and quality
control to ensure the coater has the
capability of producing a high-quality
powder coated product. To learn more
about PCI Certification, visit
www.powdercoating.org/certification.**POWDER COATING DONE RIGHT**The following companies have recently been
PCI Certified or Recertified.**A Plus Powder Coaters**
Columbiana, OH**Georgia Powder
Coating**
Gainesville, GA**Digger Specialties, Inc.**
Bremen, IN**Playcore Southern
Fulfillment Center**
Ft. Payne, AL**Porter Corporation**
Holland, MI**Valmont Industries Inc.**
Valley, NE

 The advertisement features a large image of industrial powder coating equipment at the top. Below it, three diamond-shaped inset images show: 1) A person using a tool to apply powder to a part. 2) A close-up of a powder coating gun. 3) A person operating a control panel. To the right, the Sames Inocoat logo is displayed above the text "Introducing Our New Powder Lab". Below this, it says "Custom-engineered manual and automatic powder solutions for all finishing types". At the bottom right, there is a green button that says "SCAN to LEARN MORE" next to a QR code. The Sames.com website is listed at the bottom right. Contact information for USA and Canada is at the bottom left.

sames inocoat

sames
100 years

Introducing
Our New Powder Lab

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manual and automatic
powder solutions
for all finishing types

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to LEARN
MORE

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sames.com



POWDER APPLICATION EQUIPMENT & BOOTHS

Batch

Belco Industries, Inc.
GAT Finishing Systems
Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
Global Finishing Solutions
KOCH Finishing Systems
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
PEM Inc.
Ransburg By Binks
 Reliant Finishing Systems
RTT Engineered Solutions
Sames
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 United Finishing Systems LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Cartridge

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
Global Finishing Solutions
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
PEM Inc.
Ransburg By Binks
 Reliant Finishing Systems
RTT Engineered Solutions
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 United Finishing Systems LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Control Systems

Calvary Industries, Inc.
Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
KOCH Finishing Systems
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
RTT Engineered Solutions
Sames
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Corona Applicators

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Cyclone

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Fluidized Bed

Dinamec Systems
GAT Finishing Systems
 General Fabrications Corporation
KOCH Finishing Systems
 LS Industries
Ransburg By Binks
RTT Engineered Solutions
Sames
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Hoppers

Gema USA Inc.
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
RTT Engineered Solutions
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Maintenance Services

GAT Finishing Systems
Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
KOCH Finishing Systems
Parker Ionics
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 United Finishing Systems LLC

Oscillators

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
 LS Industries

Nordson Corporation

Parker Ionics
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Powder Pumps

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Quick Color Change

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Reciprocators

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Reclaim/Recovery Systems

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
Global Finishing Solutions
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
 Reliant Finishing Systems
RTT Engineered Solutions
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Replacement Parts

Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
Global Finishing Solutions

LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Robots
Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
 LestaUSA Robotic Finishing
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
 Robotic Solutions
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Spray Applicators
Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
 LS Industries
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
 Reliant Finishing Systems
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

Spray Applicators, Powder Bells
Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation

Nordson Corporation
Ransburg By Binks
Sames
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC

Tribo Applicators
Gema USA Inc.
 General Fabrications Corporation
Nordson Corporation
Parker Ionics
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 Wagner Industrial Solutions

SYSTEM DESIGN

Finishing Systems Engineering & Installation
(Systems Houses)
Belco Industries, Inc.
GAT Finishing Systems
 General Fabrications Corporation
Global Finishing Solutions
 IntelliFinishing
KOCH Finishing Systems
 LS Industries
 Midwest Finishing Systems, Inc.
Parker Ionics
 Reliant Finishing Systems
Sames
 Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined
 Finishing Company
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.
TITAN Catalytic
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 United Finishing Systems LLC

Wagner Industrial Solutions
 Wenker Inc.

**Powder Application Rooms/Clean Rooms/
 Environmental Rooms**
GAT Finishing Systems
 General Fabrications Corporation
Global Finishing Solutions
 IntelliFinishing
KOCH Finishing Systems
 LS Industries
 Midwest Finishing Systems, Inc.
Parker Ionics
Ransburg By Binks
 Reliant Finishing Systems
 RollSeal
RTT Engineered Solutions
Sames
 Spray Tech Industrial Solutions, a Combined
 Finishing Company
Therma-Tron-X, Inc.
 Trimac Industrial Systems, LLC
 United Finishing Systems LLC

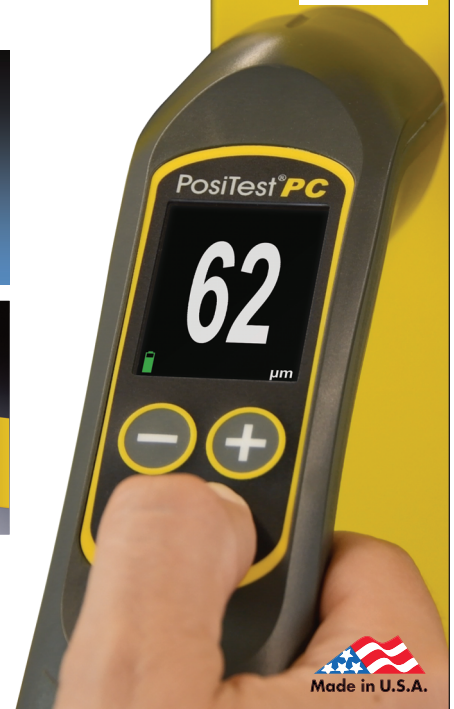
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POWDER COATINGS

Thermoplastics, Nylon

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

IFS Coatings**Thermoplastics, Polyolefin (PO)**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

Axalta Coating Systems

IFS Coatings**Thermoplastics, Polypropylene (PP)**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

IFS Coatings**Thermoplastics, Polyvinylidene Fluoride (PVDF)**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

IGP North America

PPG**Thermoplastics, Vinyl**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

Thermoset, Acrylic

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Cardinal Paint and Powder

EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat**Thermoset, Epoxy**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Cardinal Paint and Powder

Diamond Vogel, Inc.

EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat**Thermoset, Fusion Bonded Epoxy**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Diamond Vogel, Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings**PPG**

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat**Thermoset, Hybrids**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Cardinal Paint and Powder

Diamond Vogel, Inc.

EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat**Thermoset, Polyesters**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Cardinal Paint and Powder

Diamond Vogel, Inc.

EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

POWDER COATING CHARACTERISTICS

Anti-Graffiti

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Cardinal Paint and Powder

Diamond Vogel, Inc.

EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat**Antimicrobial**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Cardinal Paint and Powder

EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

Keyland Polymer UV Powder, LLC

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat**Architectural Grade**

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings

American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.

Cardinal Paint and Powder

EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.

Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings

TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

Clearcoats

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings
American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems
Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.
Cardinal Paint and Powder
Diamond Vogel, Inc.
EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.
Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America
Keyland Polymer UV Powder, LLC

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings
TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

Conductive

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings
American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.
Cardinal Paint and Powder
EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.
Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings
TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

Electrical Insulating

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings
American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.
Cardinal Paint and Powder
EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.
Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings
TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

FDA/NSF Compliant

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings
American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems
Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.
Cardinal Paint and Powder
EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.
Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings
TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

Fluorescents

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings
American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.
Diamond Vogel, Inc.
EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.
Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings
TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

For Heat-Sensitive Substrates (Low Cure)

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings
American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems
Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.
Cardinal Paint and Powder
EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.
Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America
Keyland Polymer UV Powder, LLC

PPG

Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings
TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

Hammertones

AkzoNobel Powder Coatings
American Powder Coatings, Inc.

Axalta Coating Systems
Beyond Powder Coatings Ltd.
Cardinal Paint and Powder
Diamond Vogel, Inc.
EPC Powder Mfg. Inc.
Hentzen Coatings Inc.

IFS Coatings

IGP North America

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Sherwin-Williams Company

Spectro Coats

TCI Powder Coatings
TIGER Drylac

Vitracoat

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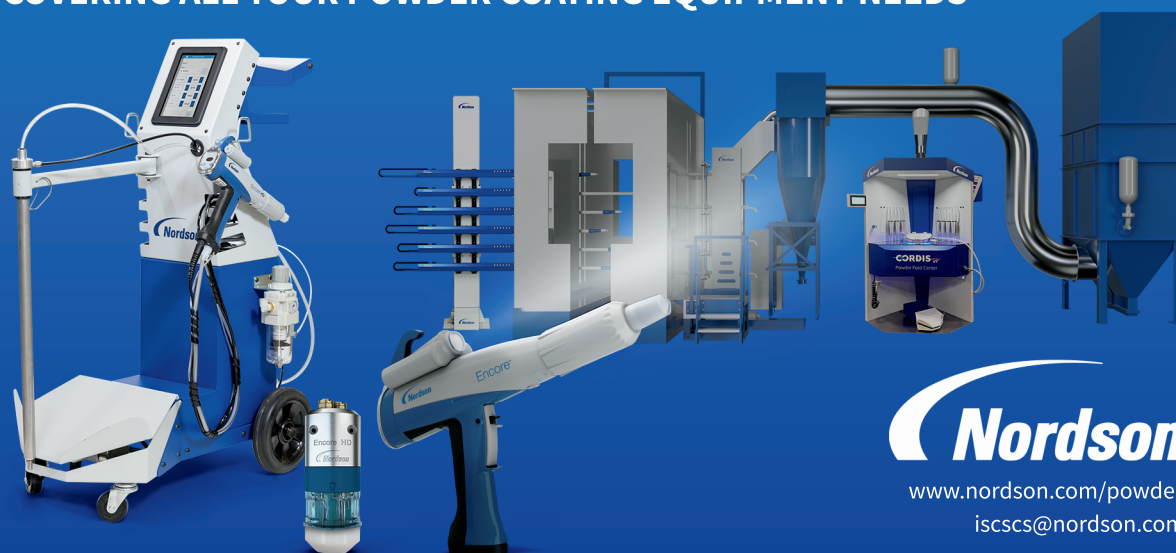
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You have questions, we have answers. In each issue of PCT, our extensive network of powder coating experts provides information to help you with your powder coating challenges. Let us know what's keeping you awake at night, and we'll do our best to help you get a good night's sleep!

Striking Oil

I'm an engineer who needs some support with my powder coating equipment. We had an incident with our air compressor and there was oil contamination in the line. What is the procedure for decontamination? I disassembled the equipment and found some oil in the air hose. What can I do?

First, confirm that your compressor is operating correctly and that all upstream compressed air filters and dryers have been cleaned as per the manufacturers' recommendations, or replaced. The air piping from the compressor to the powder booth(s) may also need to be cleaned. Adding an oil removal filter just prior to the powder booth will add an additional step to capture any oil that is in the line. Once the air supply is stabilized, you can address the powder equipment as follows:

1. **Isolate the equipment.** Disconnect all outbound air lines from the control unit to prevent further contamination.
2. **Introduce clean air.** Connect a verified clean compressed air source directly to the control unit's main air inlet.
3. **Deactivate charging.** Set the voltage control to zero (0 kV). This disables electrostatic charging but still allows airflow through the system.
4. **Activate the gun.** For manual equipment, pull and hold the trigger (or temporarily secure it). For automatic equipment, activate the gun through the system controls.
5. **Purge the system.** Allow clean air to flow through the unit for an extended period. Periodically check the

outlet by holding a clean white rag or paper towel over it to see if oil residue is still present.

6. **Evaluate results.** Depending on the severity of contamination, purging may not be sufficient. Tubing, seals, or other pneumatic components inside the control unit may require replacement.

Finally, consult the technical manual for your equipment and review the manufacturer's air quality requirements. Typical compressed air parameters for powder coating equipment include:

- Input pressure: ~5.5 bar / 80 psi
- Maximum water vapor content: ~1.3 g/m³
- Maximum oil vapor content: ~0.1 mg/m³

While oil contamination can be disruptive, careful cleaning, monitoring, and adherence to compressed air standards will help restore proper operation.

Water Your Thoughts?

We manufacture cabinets and other furniture used in the pharmaceutical and medical industries. We recently started seeing significant delamination not long after delivering products to our customers. We have taken troubleshooting measures based on feedback from our suppliers, including completely draining our 3-stage pretreatment system and checking and rechecking titrations, but we are still experiencing the issue. We have attached a field report showing testing results if that helps.

Often, when you see excessive and almost immediate delamination issues with powder coated products, the root cause can be found somewhere in the pretreatment process. First, you should check your supply chain and make sure there aren't unexpected contaminants on your substrates that your pretreatment process isn't accounting for. Next, check your tanks and titrations with your chemical supplier, which it appears you have done.

Looking at your report, you are using untreated city water for the pretreatment process. The report shows total dissolved solids (TDS) were measured at 1,170 parts per million (ppm). TDS is the concentration of dissolved salts/minerals in water, reported as ppm, and this number should typically be less than 500-600 ppm. It also shows chloride levels are at 98 ppm, which should typically be under 50 ppm. These higher TDS can deposit on the clean metal and prevent the powder from bonding correctly and thus delaminate later. To address these variables, you should consider installing a reverse osmosis (RO) or a deionized (DI) water system.



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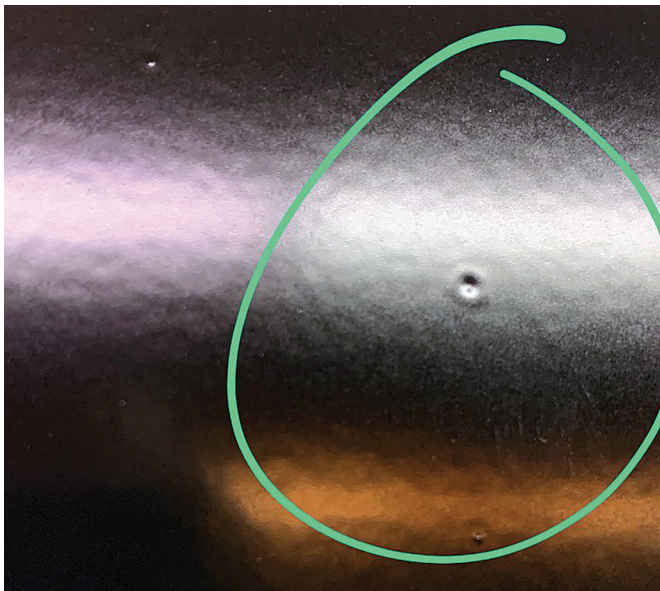


RO forces water through a semi-permeable membrane to physically reject dissolved salts, organics, and many microbes. The process can remove up to approximately 90-99% of dissolved solids and also reduces particulates and some organics. DI uses ion-exchange resins that produce water that is very low in ionic content; it does not remove non-ionic organics, bacteria, or particulates unless combined with other filters. These processes are often used together: RO as the bulk-removal step (removing most salts and solids) and DI as a polishing step to reach very low conductivity/ultrapure water.

Besides bringing your TDS and chloride levels in line, using RO/DI water may also reduce the chemical concentration needed to achieve the same efficacy of cleaning and pretreating. Of course, you should collaborate with your chemical supplier further to evaluate your specific needs.

Craters Belong on the Moon

We are seeing craters appear intermittently on cold rolled and stainless steel parts that we powder coat. We have a 4-stage iron phosphate pretreatment process with in-line spray washers, a detergent additive, and deionized rinse water. We have sprayed pretreated test panels with powder from a different supplier and those also have craters. Several corrective actions have already been attempted, including washer maintenance, removal of unapproved lubricants, elimination of silicone sources in tunnels, and checking air quality controls. Despite these efforts, the craters continue to occur.



You have already taken many steps that we would have recommended. What you are describing suggests that the issue points to some type of contamination, such as residue from the pretreatment process that hasn't been brought under control, or even volatiles getting trapped under the coating during the curing process if your oven exhaust isn't adequate. Be sure to check your compressed air supply for oil residue,

improve oven exhaust cycles, and ensure no silicone remains in your line.

If you have an offline batch booth, you should try coating test panels there and compare them to panels you run through the production line. If you see few or no craters with this testing, then you will need to focus on the probability there are contaminants continuing to find their way into the process.

To the Heart of the Matter

Request for some advice from a metal manufacturing and powder coating company in Wales, UK. Are you able to provide safety information on the use of powder coating equipment for someone who has a pacemaker fitted, plus further technical data such as fields, voltages, and frequency?

One of our operators has just had a pacemaker implanted and his clinician is requesting more information before he provides medical advice.

Your question is a good one, and one that has been asked by others over the years. We are by no means doctors or pacemaker experts, so we must defer to technical documentation as a starting point. Within the operational manual for your powder equipment, you should find information regarding pacemakers. The manual we reviewed stated the following, "As a general rule for all powder spraying installations, persons with pacemakers should never enter high voltage areas or areas with electromagnetic fields. Persons with pacemakers should not enter areas with powder spraying installations." Areas of installation typically refer to the inside of the powder booths as well as the immediate area surrounding the booth.

We also looked online for general sources of information. One place we found was the Pacemaker Club. This may be a public resource that is helpful for your operator as they navigate other restrictions related to their pacemaker.

As requested, here are some general specifications on the electrostatic power from a powder coating gun (which will vary from manufacturer to manufacturer).

- Maximum current level of approximately 110 microamperes.
- Average frequency of approximately 18kHz.
- Polarity is negative.

Overall, we recommend that the operator consult with the manufacturer of the pacemaker, have them collaborate with the manufacturer of the powder equipment you use, and speak with his/her doctor before being exposed to the powder equipment.

Have a question for our powder coating experts? Send it to asktheexperts@powdercoating.org.

Test Your Powder Coating Knowledge

This Edition's Deadline:
November 19
Good Luck!

Test your powder coating knowledge interactively with others in our industry and enter for a chance to win a PCI long- or short-sleeved t-shirt!

How it works: We've developed questions that test your powder coating knowledge using a copy of *Powder Coating: The Complete Finisher's Handbook (5th Edition)*. Pop Quiz questions can be found in each issue of *PCT*.

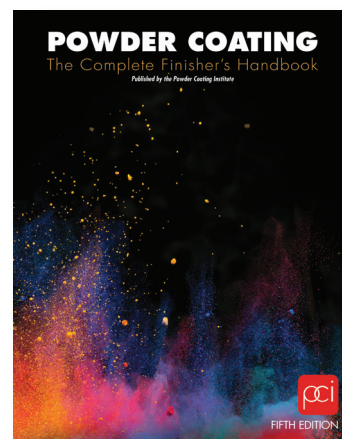
Put on your thinking cap and then email your answer to popquiz@powdercoatedtough.com using the subject line "Pop Quiz." All correct answers received by the deadline will be entered in a drawing to win an official PCI long- or short-sleeved t-shirt! In each subsequent issue of the magazine, the correct answer and the lucky winner's name will be published.

This Issue's Question:

True or False:

Infrared (IR) flame detectors used in fixed powder application equipment usually cannot offer detection response times that are as fast as those possible with UV flame detectors.

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Pop Quiz questions are taken from the **Fifth Edition** of
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Last Issue's Question:

The question for the September/October edition of Pop Quiz, along with the answer is:

Compressed air for powder coating applications must be clean and dry before it is distributed for use, otherwise it can cause issues. The dew point is the temperature at which air becomes saturated with water vapor, leading to condensation that will impede powder flow in your system or cause defects. What is the necessary dew point to keep compressed air dry enough for effective powder delivery?

- A. 68°F dew point or lower B. 58°F dew point or lower
C. 48°F dew point or lower D. 38°F dew point or lower

A: The correct answer is D. On page 219 of the Handbook, you will find that compressed air must be provided to a powder coating system at 38°F dew point or lower. In addition, the air should contain less than 0.1 ppm oil and have no particulate contaminants greater than 0.3 microns. This is why thermal conditioning and purification equipment are typically recommended.

Pop Quiz continues to enjoy great participation. We appreciate all those who took the time to answer!



This issue's winner is:
Terry Spisak
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La publicación oficial del Powder Coating Institute®

en Español

Guía de curado para aplicadores de recubrimientos en polvo

CONTENIDO:

- ¿Cuáles son los límites del horno de curado?
- ¿Qué tecnología de horno es la mejor para usted?
- Optimización del curado del recubrimiento en polvo para reducir la huella de carbono.
- Incremento de tecnología: factores para tener en cuenta al calentar la viscosidad de la resina

Verano 2023

The educational features, tips, and industry news you get from *Powder Coated Tough*... in Spanish.



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John Claman



Why IntelliFinishing and I Value PCI

IntelliFinishing has been a PCI member for fifteen years, and I've been involved for seven. Our reasons for joining—and staying—are rooted in learning, connection, and contribution.

When IntelliFinishing launched in 2010 and when I joined in 2017, we had a lot to learn. Powder coating is a science and an art and designing conveyorized systems to meet those needs requires deep industry knowledge. PCI helped me build that foundation. Through workshops and events my team and I gained insights that shaped our system design and enhanced our smart controls.

Naturally, I hoped PCI would help me reach potential customers—and it did. Exhibiting and speaking at PCI events opens the door to countless conversations. Many of those turn into leads, and eventually, into sales. PCI events also enable me to reconnect with existing customers. Their willingness to share their IntelliFinishing experience has been more valuable than any other single marketing or sales effort.

Through PCI, I have built relationships with other vendors—both complementary and competitive. I've served on committees, and even led a sub-committee, which gave me a chance to learn from others and contribute to the broader industry. I've also presented at Powder Coating Week. It was intimidating at first but helped me grow and provided a platform to share what I've learned. Presenting in front of peers boosted my confidence and improved my ability to communicate.

Some might hesitate to join PCI because of time or cost. But PCI is flexible—you can engage as much or as little as you want. I've joined and stepped away from committees as needed. And while travel and event costs add up, the return is clear. Meeting dozens of prospects in one place is far more effective than cold calls! Plus, over time, people come to expect IntelliFinishing at these events. That familiarity builds trust. I can't count the number of times I've suggested a new prospect look up the PCI website, attend the Technical Conference, or go to Powder Coating 101/202 classes! It's a win, win!

In short, PCI has helped me and IntelliFinishing grow and connect with the industry in meaningful ways. It's been worth it every year—and we're proud to be part of it. I'm looking forward to retiring next fall, but I'll be bringing my replacement with me to events and activities. So, join up and hang out with us until I hang up my steel-toed boots next September. Thanks PCI!

John Claman is sales representative and marketing supervisor at IntelliFinishing.



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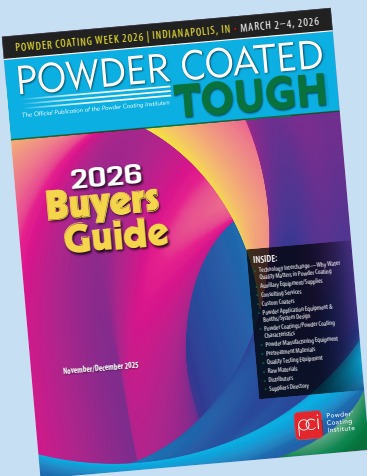
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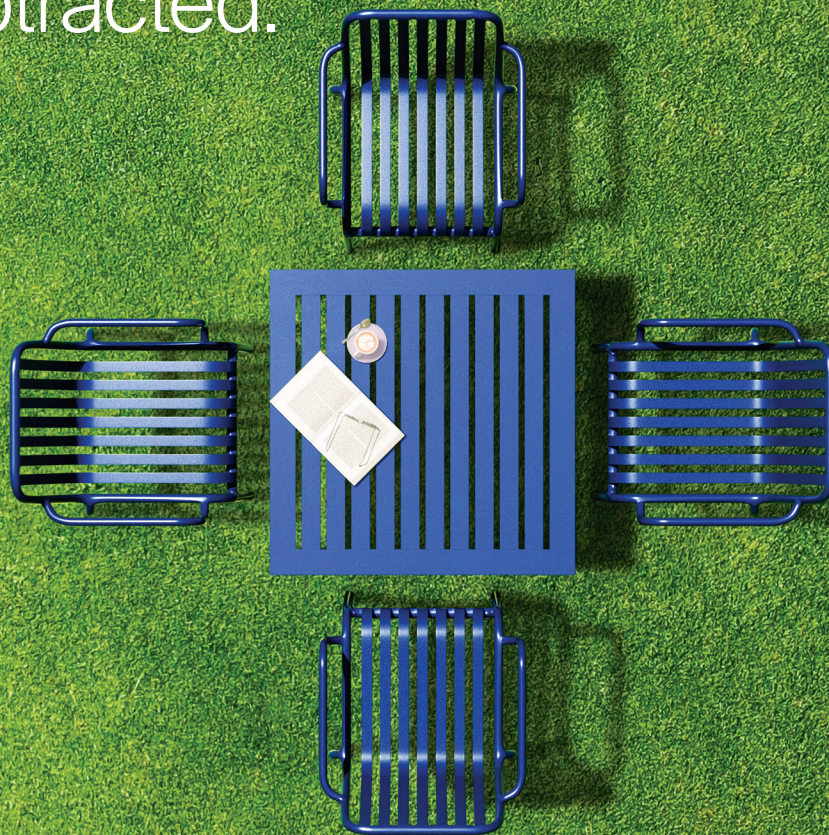
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