



NEWS RELEASE

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Lennox Hearth Products Reduces Energy Costs and Conserves Resources at Union City, Tenn. Manufacturing Facility

UNION CITY, Tenn. (September 25, 2006) – Lennox Hearth Products' (LHP) Union City, Tenn. manufacturing facility has recently undergone substantial changes in several manufacturing processes to reduce energy costs and conserve resources, cutting as much as 12% of the plant's natural gas consumption. The plant has also dramatically reduced temperatures in specific line operations, thus reducing energy costs.

"We examined several of our manufacturing processes and determined that we could gain substantial energy savings without compromising product integrity," states Gary Anderson, vice president of operations with Lennox Hearth Products. "After research and testing, we are confident that these changes will increase efficiency at our facility, and conserve important natural resources."

A heated wash process has reduced natural gas consumption by 12% by adding Euro-Matic polyethylene floating ball "blankets" to the top surface of a large wash tank. Each 8x13 ft. tank is covered with 5,500 balls. By covering the surface of the water with the balls, heat loss is significantly minimized, resulting in less energy required to heat the tank. By using this energy saving "blanket," Lennox has experienced a two month payback in energy costs.

Temperatures in curing ovens that are part of the plant's powder paint line have also been reduced a minimum of 20°F as a result of monitoring the surface temperatures of parts in the oven. Working with an instrumentation vendor, LHP's manufacturing personnel collected surface temperature data as the powder-painted parts cured in the ovens.

"Part temperature is important because powder paint cures from the inside out, requiring the part itself to achieve and maintain a minimum temperature," states Ronnie Lewis, manufacturing engineer with Lennox Hearth Products. "Data was downloaded and quality control analyses were conducted on parts that cured with the lower temperature to verify no loss in product quality occurred. The reduction has been very successful. Our personnel are preparing for a second experiment to determine if another 10 degree temperature drop can be implemented. Reduced temperatures mean reduced energy usage on a per part basis."

LHP has also reduced energy costs by changing a water-based chemical used in the wash operation, allowing water temperature in the tank to be reduced from 125 – 130°F to 95 – 115°F. An equipment change is also being evaluated for one of the wash processes that could significantly reduce water consumption. A reduction from a 4-stage wash process to a 2-stage process is currently being analyzed. The potential reduction in water use could reach 40%.

For more information on Lennox' energy saving practices, or about the full line of Lennox Hearth Products, call 800-9-LENNOX, or visit www.lennox.com.

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CAPTION: A view of the Euro-Matic 1-3/4 inch polyethylene balls in Lennox Hearth Product wash stations. Each 8x13 ft. tank is covered with 5,500 balls. By covering the surface of the water with the balls, heat loss is significantly reduced, resulting in less energy required to heat the tank.

