

Oil Control & Surfactant Preservation in Aqueous Cleaning Processes

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Aqueous cleaning often results in challenging situations in removal of oil contaminants and separation of useful surfactants from cleaning bath wastewater. A case study will be presented of a company that successfully switched from vapor degreasing to aqueous cleaning. Parameters for evaluation or rinsewater recycling systems included initial capital cost, annual O&M expenses, rate of oil recovery, and maintenance concerns for each piece of equipment. Testing has shown that a major process impact of the system has been the recovery and re-use of the medium distillate oil—137 ppm water. The presentation will show how the transition to aqueous cleaning has significantly reduced oily water disposal and replacement lubricant purchases. Discussion will also include how improved environmental and health workers benefits have been achieved. In addition, the results of an EPA-funded study of innovative P2 technologies will be discussed in order to demonstrate the potential to preserve surfactants and extend bath life further than can be achieved by simple oil removal. Additional case studies will be presented.

For more information, contact:

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