

Automating Your Paint Line: How to Know When You're Ready

EVER WONDERED IF YOU SHOULD AUTOMATE YOUR PAINT LINE?

But just not sure if automating is right for your specific application? If so, this guide can help you to determine if automation is a good fit for your plant by highlighting some common reasons to automate.

Cost Reduction

Management usually focuses on labor when considering paint line automation. The key to reducing labor costs is to make sure the actual headcount is lower than what would be required to produce the same volume manually. If automation creates a headcount reduction, the direct labor savings is usually stated as the entire cost reduction, but often times other cost benefits are excluded.

Some manufacturers forget to factor in the indirect labor costs, which includes material handling, painter prep, and other costly non-valued added processes like employee training that can be reduced if your paint line is automated.

Improved Quality

Automation can improve quality since robots can accomplish tasks that are difficult for humans to do manually, such as precise and repeatable movement. Automating a process also eliminates subjective decision-making, variation, and operator error, which





can happen when painting is done manually. In addition, because the robotic equipment is always in the spray booth, contamination carried by human painters into the booth can be reduced.

Improved Response Time

Robots can automatically and quickly adjust painting parameters and spray gun paths, as opposed to a manual change over by the painter, letting you paint different parts faster. Another benefit of having a robot is being able to handle an increased volume. For example, if the robot typically works two shifts, five days a week, any increased volume can be run on third shift or on the weekend. Without the automation, people would have to be added and trained in order to handle the peak volumes.

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