

## KEEPING YOUR VEHICLES CLEAN

# Where to Wash Our Trucks



BY JACK JACKSON

Recently I met with a trucking company in the beverage industry who wanted to understand how they could wash their vehicles in a better way than they do today. As with all customers in trucking today, the cost of doing business continues to climb in all respects, so we had to solve their problem and not increase costs.

When we discussed their

wish list their goal was to improve their image with a simpler system. Their trucks are a dark colour accompanied by their logo and a small bit of advertising. The public presentation was not up to the standards they wanted. Of course, they didn't have a dedicated wash bay, nor could they afford to go to that level as both space constraints on their property and the cost to modify the building were too high.

We spent an afternoon with them to understand their business. Trucks arrive at their distribution facility full of empties after delivering to their customers all day. The trucks enter a drive-through area in their facility where a team begins to unload the returns. After unloading, the shunter takes the trucks back out to the yard to

park for the night. The idea the customer had was to bring the trucks back into the facility during a quiet time before the night shift begins to reload the trucks for next day deliveries.

The problem was the cost of a staff member and the facility to wash. The current system of washing in the parking lot is not environmentally sound and temperature ranges are inadequate. Enlisting the services of a mobile wash company is also not practical since the parking lot is too crowded, leaving no room between the trucks for a proper cleaning. Thirdly, there was not enough time to wash all the trucks during the quiet time by hand inside the facility. It would take about 30 minutes to wash the truck, thus only a handful could be washed.

With the dirty season about to arrive, which coincides with their busy season, they were perplexed as to what to do. We discussed the ability of the shunter staff to wash the truck right after it was emptied of returns. Unfortunately, time is an issue and, of course, the area cannot be restricted by washing that interferes with the flow of forklifts and personnel trying to unload the trucks.

We were able to suggest a system that could be used for only 5 minutes per truck and conveniently tucked away and removed from staff or equipment. This also did not add any cost to the labour. The shunter and number of staff members during the offloading procedure made it feasible to take a quick five minutes to wash the

vehicle. The trucks were then parked in the parking lot, clean and ready for the night staff to load and of course enabling the morning driver to leave, highway bound, with a clean truck and gleaming company image.

If you believe there isn't a way to wash your vehicles the way you would like, just give us a call. Some-

times outside eyes can see the world in a different way.

*Awash Systems Corp. is the premier wash design company that solves washing where no one else can. Contact Jack Jackson, President of Awash Systems Corp., by email at [jjackson@awashsystems.com](mailto:jjackson@awashsystems.com), or call 800.265.7405 or visit [www.awashsystems.com](http://www.awashsystems.com).* ■



## GREAT DANE

# Great Dane Builds Its 100,000<sup>th</sup> Trailer

Savannah, Georgia – Great Dane's manufacturing facility in Wayne, Nebraska recently celebrated the completion of its 100,000th trailer.

there have been five additions to the plant. Today, Great Dane's Wayne plant employs more than 550 people and builds more than 5,000 trailers annually for some of the na-

we produce, and to the spirit of the hundreds of hard-working individuals who carefully craft these outstanding trailers for our customers on a daily basis. Their dedi-

North and South America. As a key partner in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) SmartWay Transport Partnership, Great Dane has

also recognized in 2013 by Food Logistics Magazine as a "Top Green Provider." Great Dane can be accessed online at [www.greatdanetrailers.com](http://www.greatdanetrailers.com)

tom fiberglass, specialized refrigerated truck bodies and all-electric refrigeration solutions. Such markets include dairy, meat, frozen food, live stock