

Washing Trucks With No Wash Bay



BY JACK JACKSON

Recently I met with a trucking company to discuss how vehicles can be cleaned better than existing methods.

As with all customers in the trucking industry, the cost of doing business continues to climb in all respects, so we were challenged to solve their washing problem without increasing costs.

When we discussed their wish list it was simple; improve their image with a simpler system. "Our trucks' presentation to the public was not up to the standards we wanted", their president said.

This company did not have a dedicated wash bay, nor could they afford to go to that level. There are space constraints on their property and significant costs to modify the current buildings, which are primarily leased.

We spent an afternoon with them to understand

their business. Trucks arrive back to their distribution facility after delivering to customers all day. The trucks enter into a drive-through area in their facility where a team begins to unload the skids and returned items. 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, and to reload the trucks for the 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 suitable and the temperature is not always conducive to outside cleaning. The problem with a mobile wash company providing service is that the parking lot becomes crowded, leaving no room between the trucks for a proper cleaning.

Thirdly, there was not enough time to wash all the trucks by hand during quiet times inside the facility. It would take about 30 minutes to wash one truck, therefore only a maximum of 10 trucks could be washed.

We discussed the possibility of shunter staff washing trucks right

after they are emptied from skids and customer returns. Unfortunately, time was an issue and of course the area cannot be restricted by equipment blocking the flow of forklifts and personnel trying to unload trailers.

We were able to suggest a system that could be used for only 5 min-

utes per truck, conveniently tucked away, and not impede any staff or equipment. This also did not add any cost to the labour. The shunter and staff available during the offloading procedure were sufficient to take a quick 5 minutes to wash the vehicle.

The trucks were then

parked in the parking lot, clean and ready for the night staff to load and for the morning driver to leave the yard with a clean vehicle and positive image of the company.

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

side eyes can see the world in a different way.

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