

Graco FRP System reduces cost of ownership for filled resins



CASE STUDY

Challenge

A1 Fiberglass utilizes a range of fiberglass molding and application processes. The Hastings, Nebraska facility manufactures fiberglass parts for recreational vehicles, buses, medical equipment and amusement park rides, and was looking to improve their operational efficiencies. Their chief objectives were to reduce downtime by decreasing the number of pump rebuilds needed when using filled resin and to implement a preventative maintenance program to schedule rebuilds.

Solution

This manufacturing environment proved to be the ideal testing site for a new Graco FRP System. As a result, A1 agreed to install a Graco Chop System featuring DataTrak™ Control and Graco RS Chop Gun.™

Results

A1 is spraying about 1,000 pounds (110 gallons) of filled resin a day, five days a week. According to a statement from the operators, the pump seals are lasting longer and require fewer rebuilds than previous competitive pumps. The DataTrak, which monitors resin usage and tracks cycles, has allowed the maintenance staff to monitor system output and schedule rebuilds in advance.

A1 has been impressed with reliability and ease of use. “The support from the Graco team was outstanding if I ever had any questions about the system,” said John Wood, A1 Fiberglass. “In addition, I love the concept of no surge chamber which makes the system more safe and maintenance friendly.”



Graco Chop System

“I love the system. [It’s] easy to set up, tear down, keep clean, dial in and has great patterning that’s easy to refine and adjust on the fly. The equipment is very maneuverable and balanced, and doesn’t fatigue the operator when long usage is required.”

— John Wood, A1 Fiberglass

SPECIFICATIONS

END USER

A1 Fiberglass

INDUSTRY

Composites (FRP)

APPLICATION

Manufactures fiberglass parts for RV's, buses, medical equipment, amusement park rides

Polyester resin with 35 percent filler, 36 to 38 percent glass, open mold

Material Specs:

- Polyester resin, calcium sulfate filler (35 percent), Methyl ethyl ketone peroxide (MEKP) catalyst

GRACO EQUIPMENT*

- Graco Chop System with DataTrak Controls
- Graco RS Chop Gun™

CONFIGURATION

- Part Number: 16R079
- 13:1 Ratio External Mix Chop System
- Material Pump: 13:1
- Hose Length: 25 ft (7.6 m)
- No Heat
- Fixed Cart
- Spray Tip: CSTS66

System Set-up

- Operating Pressure: 70 psi (0.48 MPa) (4.8 bar)
- Catalyst Percentage: 2
- Atomizing Air Pressure: 28 psi (0.19 MPa) (1.9 bar)
- Air Assist Containment (AAC®): 40 psi (0.19 MPa) (1.9 bar)



**Exact equipment configuration will vary and depend on factors such as rate of output, length and size of hoses, bead size desired, and container sizes.*