

MATTSON'S Applying Intelligence

Challenge

Style has always been a top priority for Leer. As one of the first pickup truck cap manufacturers to offer its products in an array of colors, the folks at Leer have spent almost 30 years perfecting the mirror-like finish that has made their toppers so famous. Recently, however, the process by which Leer achieved this level of quality was threatened. Compliance regulations reduced the level of solvent allowed in their paint coatings, making them thicker and more difficult to apply. For Leer, meeting compliance meant finding an application aid that would be safe for the environment, safe for employees to use, and would not sacrifice Leer's trademark finish.

Solution

Leer Paint Supervisor Jesse Martinez, determined to maintain the company's stellar reputation, quickly took action. Research revealed that heating the paint prior to application would make compliant coatings more fluid, thus easier to apply. He set out to find a mechanism that could do the job without an electrical source. Jesse's search led him to the Mattson AutoHeat™ paint/material heater, a stand-alone component of the Mattson AutoPilot™ proportioning system. Its performance was beyond his expectations. The AutoHeat not only allowed Leer to meet compliance and provide employees with a safe working environment, it **improved** the quality of their paint finish!

Performance

The AutoHeat provided Leer with a safe and effective medium by which to smooth their paint coatings. Using compressed shop air to warm materials up to 105° F without the aid of electricity, the AutoHeat eliminates the cost of explosion-proof wiring while maintaining a safe working environment. Heating the paint lowers its viscosity so operators can easily apply the paint evenly, resulting in a smoother finish. What's more, heat accelerates the curing process and improves the appearance of the finished product.

The AutoHeat's innovative design makes operation simple. It functions without any moving parts that can break over time, so users don't have to worry about maintenance. And, with all stainless steel wetted passages, corrosion from compliant waterborne coatings is not a concern. The AutoHeat has two operational settings that allow users to choose which option best fits each application. The PREHEAT & HEAT setting warms the material and preheats the optional insulated hose bundle, helping to maintain heat within the hose. The HEAT ONLY setting warms the material after the hose bundle has been preheated, conserving air consumption during the spraying process.

"In the topper business, our products' finish is the final statement of its quality. Settling for a mediocre paint job would be like telling our customers that we don't care. With the AutoHeat, we were able to continue sending our customers the message that they are our number one priority." — Jesse Martinez

To find out how to put the AutoHeat to work in your operation, contact Mattson at 800-877-4857, or check out our web site at www.mattsonspray.com



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