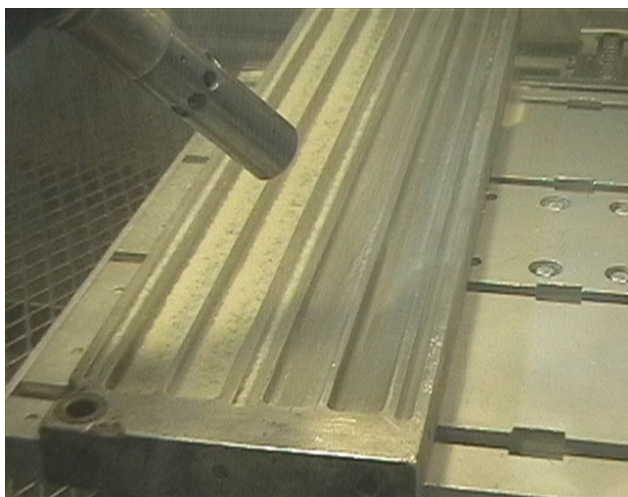


STARCH ABRASIVE BLASTING MEDIA Cleans Composite Tooling

Composite manufacturing continues to grow as companies recognize the strength-to-weight benefits offered by composite materials. Composite products are

or wears the tool surface. Subsequent tool imperfections can result in rework or rejection of the product or the costly tool.

sure, repetitive task injuries and the long-term disabilities commonly associated with current tool cleaning methods.



In cooperation with composite manufacturers, ADM has developed a tool cleaning process that significantly reduces labor cost and surface wear. Through testing and close collaboration with customers, ADM EnviroStrip® starch

Two examples of tools being cleaned with ADM starch media

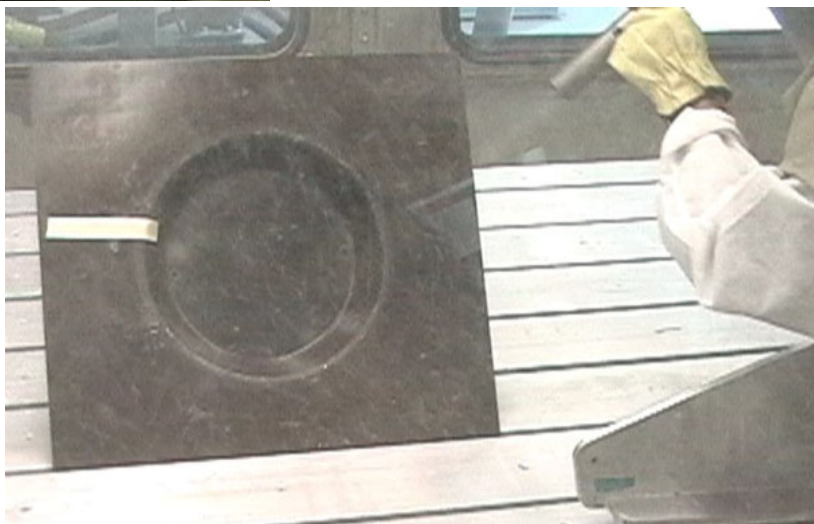
typically formed in molds, called a tool, which can be made from various types of materials. High performance composites are typically formed in an aluminum tool; but nickel, steel and composite materials can also be used.

During the molding process excess resin and/or mold release form a build-up on the inside surface of the tool. This coating must be removed to ensure proper release and a proper product surface condition. The current industry practice to remove build-up is hand sanding. However, sanding is labor-intensive and often scratches

media has proven its ability to rapidly remove thin to thick resin or release without damaging or changing the tool surface. The ADM starch media process eliminates the physiological dangers associated with chemical expo-

A major producer of composite recreational products has already recognized the benefit of this technology, utilizing ADM media to clean 'high volume' tools on a daily basis. Several other aerospace and industrial composite manufacturing companies are currently working with ADM to optimize specific tool cleaning applications.

Typically, tools can be cleaned at a rate of 0.5 to 1.0 square foot per minute. Although media costs are similar to sandpaper costs, the reduction in labor, rejections, and tool surface wear makes the ADM EnviroStrip® process a major improvement for composite manufacturing.



Contact ADM for more details.





ADM offers a range of advanced dry stripping media and technical support to ensure optimum quality and productivity.

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