



ZIP SLIP™ 153 S PREMIUM RELEASE AGENTS

Case Study



Driving performance in product finishing

ASK Chemicals ZIP SLIP™ 153 S clears the way for success at Waupaca Plant 6



>> Background

As an ASK Chemicals customer, and a high-volume producer of gray, ductile and compacted graphite iron castings, Waupaca is uniquely positioned to serve transportation markets across the world. Through its Plant 6 operations, the company manufactures rotors and calipers for OEM and after markets parts suppliers - melting 60 to 70 tons of iron and averaging 260 molds per hour - capabilities that have made it the largest gray iron casting group in North America.

Waupaca holds a rich and well establish reputation. Yet, it's the company's commitment to continuous improvement that makes it stand out today. On one hand, that belief can be seen in Waupaca's investment in employee empowerment programs like Kaizen, JIT and Line Team. And, on the other hand, it's visible in the way new technology has improved the foundry's day-to-day operations.

Not content with the build-up, sticking and downtime problems it was experiencing during the coremaking process, Waupaca turned to ASK for solutions. This move set the stage for a partnership that would lead to reductions in production bottlenecks, significant "cost-in-use" savings, and greater quality control.

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>> Objectives

Preceding its work with ASK Chemicals, Waupaca was quick to realize that time spent cleaning out build-up from tooling meant less time producing cores. As a result, Plant 6 operations were subsequently plagued by the following setbacks:

- Production shutdowns for cleaning every 20 minutes
- Backlogs of parts — sometimes calling for weekend shift production
- Reductions in average product cycles per hour

To resolve these issues, Waupaca would first take a detailed look at their core and mold making processes to see if the release agent they were applying was the true source of the problem.

“I’m sold on ASK Chemicals' technical support. It’s really the biggest thing that sets them apart from their competition,” Wedell said. “I will always use ASK products because of the level of support they provide. They’ll send an army of people down here to evaluate and solve the issue if they have to, and they’ll do it ASAP”



>> Solutions

ASK Chemicals began the troubleshooting process by sending a group of technical consultants to examine the products and processes at Waupaca Plant 6. Once on site, ASK's team worked with Waupaca personnel on adjusting their existing process parameters and tested different release agents — bringing in various formulations overnight. These efforts led to the following recommendations:

- Switch release agent to ASK Chemicals ZIP SLIP™ 153 S release agent as a preferred method for reducing build-up of sand and resin on the patterns
- Adjust equipment settings to optimize the overall application and effectiveness of the release agent
- Train Waupaca Plant 6 personnel that with ASK's ZIP SLIP™ Releases, sometimes less is more

Even better, the direction ASK Chemicals was able to provide earned the trust of many long-term employees at Plant 6 — giving them a newfound confidence to break free from old patterns of thinking and problem solving. It's a difference that's made Waupaca more open to new technologies and, in turn, more confident in ASK's capabilities.

>> Results

Once ASK Chemicals' recommendation to use ZIP SLIP™ 153 S release agent was implemented, the build-up problems that had frustrated staff members for so long virtually disappeared overnight. It was a success that translated into dramatic reductions in rework and production bottlenecks. Here is a brief list of other tangible benefits of our partnership with Waupaca Plant 6:

- ZIP SLIP™ 153 S release agent eliminated downtime associated with having to clean build-up in the machines every 20 minutes — a change that also yielded a “cleaning” effect on the tooling
- Average cycles per hour increased from 60 to 70 cycles per hour to 100 cycles per hour (reaching the company's goal)
- The number of release agent applications was lowered, reducing consumption costs, enhancing productivity and improving performance

In the short term, ASK Chemicals proved to Waupaca that they had the answers needed for success. But, it's the long-term solution where ASK Chemicals shined most bright. Proving solutions that lead to foundry's long-term profitability is one of ASK Chemicals greatest strengths.

>> About ASK CHEMICALS

ASK Chemicals is one of the largest suppliers of complete solutions and tailor-made consultation services for the foundry industry. The core of our company's activity involves manufacturing all foundry consumables required for the production chain as well as providing optimum technical services in order to perfectly adapt our products to the processes on the customer's premises.

Our wide product range contains binders for all core manufacturing processes, coatings, additives, feeders, filters, release agents, metallurgical products including inoculants, Mg treatment wires, inoculation wires and pre-alloys for iron casting. Core production and prototype development as well as a wide range of simulation services round off what the company has to offer.



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