

Roller Coater Cleanout Process for Coating Changeovers

Cleanout is required whenever changing between types of coating, such as UV Gloss/ UV Satin/ UV Matte/ Aqueous Gloss/ Aqueous Satin/ Aqueous Matte/ or any other specialty coating. This is especially important for cleanouts from Aqueous to UV (or vice versa) or from Matte to Gloss coatings.

Cleanout Supplies: press wash, rags, chemical resistant gloves, gallon ZipLock bags, several clean dry pails, medium to fine paint filters (disposable cones or socks).

- 1) Drain pan, pan hose, pump lines into a clean pail. It is not necessary to discard this coating—it can be filtered and returned to your unused coating pail unless it has been contaminated with other substances. Be sure that you have pushed all of the coating out of the pan and pan drain hose.
- 2) Remove the end dam pads and seal in a ZipLock bag labeled with the type of coating and store for next use of that coating. This is important because felt end dams absorb the coating and would carry over potentially incompatible elements into the next coating used.
- 3) Wipe down the pump lines and set the pump input hose into some press wash. Place a small bucket under the coating nozzle, and flush the lines with press wash. You don't need to use a lot. The used press wash can be retained in a clean container and reused for this purpose again. The pump lines can be allowed to drip dry, or can be switched out for lines dedicated to the next coating type.
- 4) Wash down all parts of the coater that come into contact with the coating using rags dampened with press wash. Discard these.
- 5) Replace with end dams that are new or compatible with next coating type.
- 6) Allow time for the wash used to dry from all surfaces. This is especially important for certain kinds of UV coatings: wet press wash will discourage proper curing until it has been flushed from the rollers and pump lines. Some specialty UV coatings may require a cleaner neutralizing agent to be sure that proper curing times are achieved.
- 7) Set the coating pump system up with the new coating and start up the coater as usual.

About Fergesen Systems LLC

Fergesen Systems LLC was created by Robert Fergesen to meet the needs of the printing industry for reliable and innovative coating and curing equipment. Fergesen Systems LLC grew out of Fergesen Design Company, Inc. (founded in 1981) a business that supports applications for solvent free, environmentally safe, worker friendly coatings, inks, and adhesives. The Fergesen companies together deliver powerful solutions for the printing and manufacturing industries, specializing in water based, hot melt, and ultraviolet (UV) and other radiation (IR, EB) curing technologies.

