

New approach pays dividends

Leading subcontract engineering company Dawson Precision Components (DPC) has improved efficiency and reduced waste through a new approach to tool storage and management. The approach is based around using the 5S principles: sorting, straightening, systematic cleaning, standardising, and sustaining.

The improvements began with simply sorting all tools and materials and throwing out anything that wasn't needed.

The second step, straightening, involved identifying which tools were needed for particular jobs and ensuring each workplace

had all relevant tools. A logical place was allocated for each tool, positioned to minimise bending and stretching and clearly marked. All tools have been given a corresponding label so that they remain where they are needed and do not wander to other stations.

Systematic cleaning practices have been adopted to ensure the workplace stays organised. At the end of each shift, the work area is cleaned and everything is returned to its designated place. This ensures the workplace stays tidy and locations of tools remain front of mind.

These processes have been standardised across the organisation, so that employees doing the same job can work at any relevant station, where they will have access to the same tools, stored and ordered in the same way.

Finally, DPC ensures all these processes are sustained through regular checks and reviews.

These small improvements in tool management improve efficiency and help promote greater awareness of the working environment. If a problem were to develop, such as a leak or machine misalignment, it can



be spotted and rectified quickly, avoiding delays to customers.

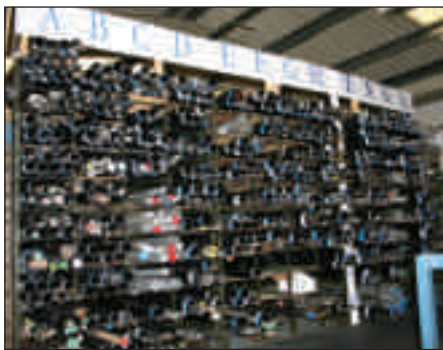
Managing director Simon Dawson says: "DPC invests heavily in the latest precision engineering machinery and training to meet the needs of industries, such as medical and aerospace, which require very high quality parts, produced to tight timescales. Having a leaner workplace means we can complete jobs more quickly because parts are produced right first time, and no time is wasted looking for the right tools or materials."

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Facom challenges roller cabinet design

Facom has released a range of new roller cabinets and top-chests featuring innovative design features which challenge traditional and restrictive workshop storage facilities.

The company has gone back to the drawing board to deliver state-of-the-art JET+ roller cabinets available in three widths with up to 11 drawer combinations and with clever built-in features to increase efficiency for workshop owners and mechanics.

Innovations such as retractable edges to accommodate large objects, wheels which only require a seven Kg force to move the unit, handles designed to counter slippery hands, fast tool access and soft bumpers to absorb shock and protect vehicles set the range leagues apart from standard metal storage boxes used in many workshops.

Alison Howard, UK marketing manager for Facom, says: "It has long been recognised that existing designs for roller cabinets have barely changed for many years and so the designers at Facom have created a storage solution much more suited to the demands of fast-paced modern workshops.

"Many of the features such as the easy-move wheels, soft bumpers and fast access to key equipment simply don't exist on any other product in the market. The JET+ units are also tested to 50,000 openings and closings of the drawers to demonstrate long-life capacity.

"The cabinets are available in three different widths to provide maximum storage capacity for any size of workshop. They are available



in 28 colour options and are much more manoeuvrable than traditional cabinets."

Each unit can be custom configured with flexible numbers of drawers per cabinet and modular tool storage for each drawer. All of the work surfaces are made of 2mm thick, ribbed, pressed aluminium which is also reinforced with a 15mm wooden board for ultimate strength and durability.

Facom

www.facom-tools.co.uk

