

UV stains and coatings for custom wood millwork

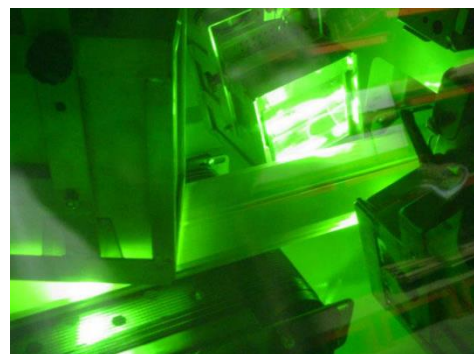
Increased productivity with less labor enabled diversification and business growth

Trimpac uses Heraeus Noblelight microwave-powered UV curing systems to cure stains and clear coatings on interior wood trim and moldings for commercial and residential interiors.

Trimpac, Inc. (Stratford, WI) was an early pioneer in providing residential contractors with a complete, ready-to-install, custom stained and finished "trim package" delivered to the job site. To make prefinished linear moldings for the residential market they originally used hand applied stains and manually applied nitrocellulose coatings which was very labor intensive. A conversion to UV-curable stains and coatings improved product consistency, and reduced lead times and environmental emissions.

A vacuum coating system with two 10-inch and two 6-inch Heraeus Noblelight microwave-powered UV curing systems is applied 100% solid UV coatings up to 2 mils thick on 400 different profiles. This system handles parts up to four inches thick and eight inches wide. Compared to the nitrocellulose coatings, they quickly found the UV process was much more consistent and significantly faster. A 16-foot molding takes only 6 seconds to pass through the vacuum coater and cure station and is immediately packaged for shipping. Lead times improved dramatically. The 100% solids UV coatings contain no VOCs, significantly reducing environmental emissions, and the 100% transfer efficiency of the vacuum coating process eliminated coating waste.

Trimpac also uses an automated spray line with UV curing to stain and clear coat pine car siding and door jambs at a rate of 40 to 100 feet per minute. The line processes pine, oak, cherry and poplar parts as large as 12-inches wide by 6-inches high, with lengths ranging from two to twenty feet. Five, 6-inch microwave-powered UV curing systems with lamps oriented at different locations and angles ensure all sides are adequately exposed to the UV. The entire line takes up only 35 feet and over spray is reclaimed to reduce waste.



The conversion to UV meant Trimpac needed less labor for certain products. Instead of reducing the number of employees, they retained employees to produce new products which enabled Trimpac to diversify and grow their business.



Benefits

- Increased production rates
- Reduced lead times
- Reduced waste and no environmental emissions
- Improved product consistency
- Enabled diversification and business growth

Technical Data

- 2, 10-inch and 2, 6-inch microwave-powered UV curing systems on a vacuum coating line
- 5, 6-inch microwave-powered UV curing systems on a spray line
- 100% solids stain and clear coatings
- Vacuum line – up to 2 mil coating, 16 ft. profile in 6 seconds
- Spray line – stain and clear coat at 40 – 100 ft/minute

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