



Case Study: ARDEX Americas [Ga.]

Website: www.ardexamericas.com

Industry: manufacturing

Ardex develops, manufactures and distributes high-performance, specialty building products. That includes floor covering, tile and stone installation systems and architectural concrete systems for commercial and residential applications. Their Georgia plant produces cement that is bagged on an assembly line.

“The neat thing about Thrive is it’s a very user-friendly interface for all associates. It allows management to see downtime data in a detailed manner. There also is a lot of depth to the software allowing you to track anything you need.”

Michael Deppa
Senior Project Manager
ARDEX Americas [Ga.]



10-15 Minutes saved on each change over



10-20 Changeovers per week



The Assignment

ARDEX’S Georgia plant management knew they were experiencing downtime, especially during frequent changeovers, but they did not have a good way of measuring it. Shift line managers were jotting down numbers on paper, but management knew the figures were more guesswork than real data that could drive an improvement process. The company decided it needed an effective downtime tracking system and found Thrive during a Google search. Aided by support from Thrive, the system was easily installed in 2018 by the systems operation manager and an electrical maintenance employee. Once the company determined what it wanted to track, they established base numbers, developed downtime codes, tested the system and created a PowerPoint presentation to educate their line operators on how to input data. The biggest challenge was getting everyone on board with the Thrive program because generally employees do not like to change from their regular routine.



The Results

Within three to four months of implementing Thrive’s software, ARDEX was able to see significant results. Downtime numbers were easier to track and were significantly more accurate. Changeover times improved. Minor equipment issues were spotted and fixed. Even something as simple as employee lunch breaks, normally an hour, were found to be stretching to 1:20 in some instances – an under-the-radar issue picked up with the Thrive system. After compiling the data, the company determined it was saving 10 to 15 minutes of downtime on each changeover. With 10 to 20 changeovers a week, the potential savings was significant. Last year, ARDEX began analyzing its Thrive data and started developing ways to improve their inefficiencies. They honed in on the obvious areas that required attention. Previously, dollars spent on suspected inefficiencies were guesswork. Now, with data from the Thrive program, the company knows exactly what needs to be done to get better.



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