



Case Study: Lodge Cast Iron

Website: www.lodgemfg.com

Industry: manufacturing

Lodge Cast Iron manufactures quality cookware and accessories. The company operates two foundries in south Pittsburg, Tenn., where it has been located since 1896.

“Without Thrive it would be a data mining nightmare. All the data is in one place and I can access it easily. We see things now we didn’t see before Thrive.”

Michael Casey
Engineer
Lodge Cast Iron



30,000 Downtime reduction in minutes from a specific period in 2019 vs the same time frame in 2020



79% Uptime improvement in 2019
83% Uptime improvement after five months in 2020



The Assignment

In 2018, Lodge Cast Iron engineers recognized the company was losing money from inefficiencies on its four molding machines at two foundries. Machine operators were filling out production data sheets manually, which meant that downtime events were not accurately being measured. Also, each machine operator on each shift had a different method of tracking and explaining equipment and downtime issues. Mold counts, compiled after each shift, also were not accurately being logged. Changeovers were an issue as well, as it was difficult to precisely pinpoint how much downtime was involved. Recognizing they needed a digitized production tracking system, Lodge installed the Thrive system on three of its lines. Lodge’s electricians installed the system with some input from Thrive. It was not a difficult process. More challenging was training the machine operators to input the data into the Thrive tablet. It was mostly a matter of them getting comfortable with the system. So there was a transition period between the old, manual way of doing things and relying on the Thrive system.



The Results

The Thrive system dramatically improved productivity and downtime numbers. Problem areas were exposed and resolved. One of the early signs Thrive was going to be a success was when during the transition period there was a 27-minute downtime difference on one machine during a single shift between what was tracked manually and what the Thrive data revealed. Specifically, there were underperforming machines and equipment issues Thrive data uncovered. Once they were taken care of the productivity improvement was significant. On one machine alone, 16,000 minutes were saved in 2019. On another machine, 5,000 minutes were saved during the same period. Overall, the company saved 30,000 in downtime minutes in 2019. Meanwhile, on the productivity side of things, there was a 79% uptime improvement in 2019. Lodge has developed a specific and organized game plan utilizing the Thrive system. Data reports are sent out every Friday and reviewed by management on Monday. The company has not only been impressed with the results of the Thrive system, which has resulted in significant cost savings, but the ease of using the system and the support from Thrive technicians.



888-499-7772

Solutions@ThriveMES.com

downtimecollectionsolutions.com