

CASE STUDY: STAINLESS STEEL WIRE MESH COMBO



OVERVIEW

The meat processing industry continues to be challenged by rising input costs, the all important need to improve food and plant safety and the desire to reduce its environmental footprint while focusing on increased profit levels; a daunting task at first glance.

Many processors have looked to new product introductions and improved yields to address the profit aspects of these challenges but what of the task of addressing sustainability and cost reduction on the plant floor?

For decades, processors have used corrugated combos and wood or plastic pallets, stainless steel vats and bulk plastic gaylords throughout their process cycle. While each of these containers has its merits no single type addresses all of the goals set out above.

OBJECTIVE

To develop a reusable bulk container that has the durability of a stainless vat; which can be easily cleaned; which is safe to use repeatedly; and which is cost effective and recyclable.

The result, the creation of the { [HYPERLINK "http://www.ultratainer.com/meat"](http://www.ultratainer.com/meat) } stainless steel wire mesh collapsible combo bin.

STRATEGY

Working in conjunction with a large-scale pork and poultry processor, our team members reviewed and analyzed the operational flow in each of this processor's various plants. By seeing how and discussing why each different type of container was used in a specific area our team was able to develop a solution that we believed could be used in over 70% of the client's current applications.

RESULTS

Corrugated Combos and Pallets
Eliminating 80% of the single use corrugated combos lowered the client's net applicable operating costs by over 40%.

The use of wood pallets on the processing floor was totally eliminated thereby improving product and worker safety.

Bulk Plastic Bins:

The company had previously tried using large plastic reusable bins but found that within a short period of time they were faced with costly repairs and replacements due to lift damage to the bins and also found that the plastic units wore out quickly or became scarred and damaged as a result of scrubbing the interior of the bin during the cleaning cycle thus resulting in the risk of product contamination.

The client sold off many of its plastic bins and now their use is limited to very "wet" applications on the poultry side where water and purge has to be contained and in pork pickling applications.

Stainless Vats:

The vats have been redirected to ground meat applications.

More time,
more space,
best fit.



SUMMARY

Through a combined acquisition and rental of 5,000 ULTRATAINER Combo Bins:

- 1) the client has reduced its operating costs significantly through the daily elimination of approximately 2,000-3,000 large corrugated boxes and wood skids from its production cycle
- 2) the client has improved cycle time in many areas of its operations through faster cooling of its product as a result of the open mesh design of the Ultratainer
- 3) the stainless wire mesh units were designed for ease of cleaning thereby eliminating the problems associated with the plastic units
- 4) reuse of the stainless combos eliminated tons of cardboard waste thereby improving the company's environmental footprint
- 5) most importantly the company improved product safety by eliminating approximately 2,500 wood pallets from the processing floor on an annual basis.
- 6) Average annual savings for this client were approximately \$1.5 million per year producing a simple ROI of 30% and payback was 7 months

The reusable Stainless Wire Mesh Combo has an effective life span of 10-15 years and costs pennies a day to own when compared to a single use corrugated combos at \$5.00-\$7.00.

Safety, Durability and Significant Cost Savings for less than a \$1.00 a day.

The Solution is Obvious - ULTRATAINER STAINLESS STEEL COMBOS