



WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER LEAN CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

PYRAMID TEAMS UP WITH WIPFLI TO BOOST TEAM PRODUCTIVITY!

With the goal of gaining operational efficiency, the team at Pyramid Plastics paired with Wipfli to conduct a Power Event. This Kaizen style event focused on the post-production assembly operations of 4 high quality SKUs for a critical customer. A cross functional team including site leadership, quality, assembly specialists, and material handling, participated in the three-day event with the objective of optimizing space, reducing material handling, and improving quality. Continue reading for a complete recap of the Event.

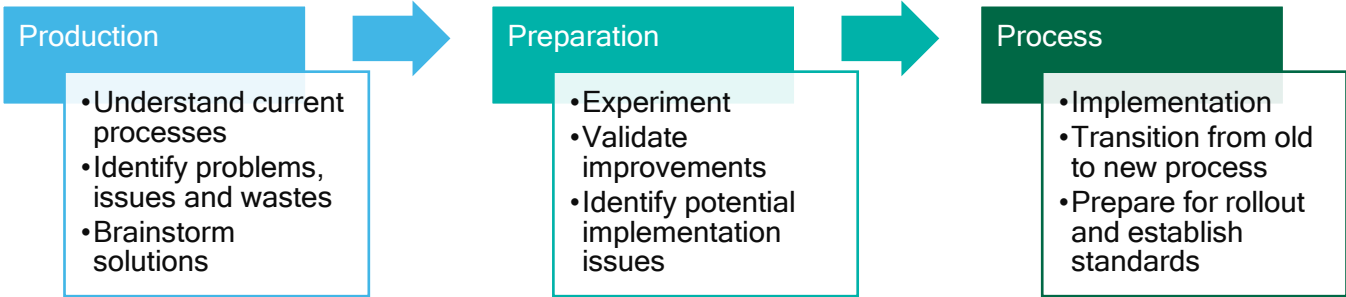
A Kaizen workshop, aka Power Event, is a lean methodology used to make rapid process improvements in a focused area, with an emphasis on quality and delivery from the perspective of the customer. The word "kaizen" translates to "continuous improvement" in Japanese. In this event, the team leveraged 3P Cell Design to develop a future state assembly work center layout.



Pyramid Team: Chase McNitt, Kaivalya Shah "KD", Tina Lockhart, Glenn Breece, Angelica Ortiz, Andy Peterson
Wipfli Team: Casey Brandow, Jacob Rohrer, Colton Barry

THE "WHY"

As part of Pyramid Molding Group's strategic plan, the site recently introduced new customer offerings of enhanced assembly services, including a critical partnership. This partnership will directly impact PMG's growth trajectory and challenge the organization to build scalable operations.



Production

- Understand current processes
• Identify problems, issues and wastes
• Brainstorm solutions



Preparation

- Experiment
• Validate improvements
• Identify potential implementation issues



Process

- Implementation
• Transition from old to new process
• Prepare for rollout and establish standards

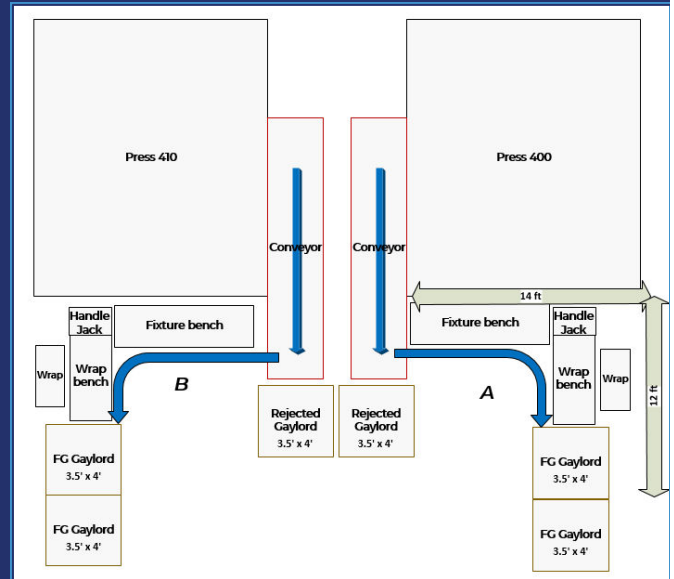


BY THE NUMBERS: MATERIAL MOVEMENT & TRANSPORTATION

- 3** times a pallet of drawers will travel to and from the outside warehouse
- 400** pallets used for drawers over a one-month period
- 700** hours that drivers will spend transporting drawers over a year

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE EVENT?

- Transportation of material
- Reduced footprint at outside warehouse
- Quality of drawers to customer: Fewer touches and handling
- Predictable results through standardization
- Reduced work in process inventory: Closer to cash in the finance cycle
- Organizational Efficiency – the value in partnering with organizations that emphasize continuous Improvement



IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY

Single Piece flow, Plastic Processing -> Assembly

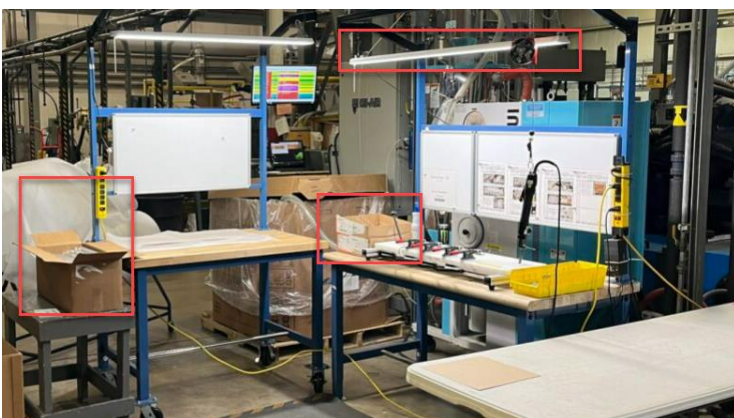
- ▶ Reduction of material handling, and active quality defect root cause problem solving

Flexible work cells, production in three positions

- ▶ Ability to run In Cycle/Decoupled, In Cycle/In Cycle, or Decoupled/Decoupled

“This project is not about getting people to work faster, or work harder, but about working more efficiently.”

– Andrew Peterson, COO



Quality inspection enhancements

Material presentation & ergonomics

Bench configuration standards

Material movement & replenishment