

Sandvik Tooling Supply - Hardening shop benefits from Keller Lufttechnik After-Sales Service

Persistent, hazardous smoke fumes in the air we breathe - it's no longer a problem at the hardening factory of Sandvik Tooling Supply in Renningen near Stuttgart. Oil mist separators from Keller Lufttechnik in Kirchheim/Teck ensure clean air for the manufacturing plant. In order to safeguard its air quality, the company, part of the Swedish engineering group Sandvik, invests in regular maintenance and professional cleaning of its extraction systems. To this end, it has completed a peace-of-mind service agreement with Keller Lufttechnik.



Stefan Heimerdinger (right) takes the maintenance of the system-critical separators at his hardening shop very seriously. With the peace-of-mind service agreement with Keller Lufttechnik, he benefits from regular maintenance and professional cleaning of his extraction systems.

The four gas ovens at Sandvik Tooling Supply's hardening shop operate 'round the clock, including weekends and public holidays. Approximately 250,000 tool holders are hardened there annually in two phases – first, inside a 930 degree oven, then in a 200 degree oven. When a robot removes the wire meshes with the numerous blanks from the furnace chamber after an initial firing, it raises a spectacular cloud of smoke with tall flames that blaze upwards toward the ceiling of the plant. A sizable increase in temperature in the vicinity of the oven is produced - up to 50 degrees.

Healthy environment in the production plant

"For safety reasons, we separated this production phase in 2012 and moved it to the present plant," says Stefan Heimerdinger, head of the hardening shop. "Back then, we installed an effective Keller Lufttechnik extraction system. Now we have a great environment here. Many visitors are surprised and find it difficult to believe that they're inside a hardening shop".

Separators are system-critical

The extraction system is a system-critical plant component. Should it fail, the ovens automatically shut down. "This not only results in a production shutdown at our plant, but also very quickly at our adjacent production facility, as well, where parts are further processed and prepared for shipment," explains Stefan Heimerdinger. "That's why we take the maintenance of our separators very seriously and have signed a peace-of-mind service agreement with Keller Lufttechnik". >

Regular maintenance and cleaning

At regular intervals, a Keller Lufttechnik service technician inspects the two oil mist separators which collect the flue gases, filter out foreign substances from the air, and exhaust them from the plant. He exchanges the large MICOS-P fine fiber filter cartridges annually. Consequently, of course, the system must be shut down. This year, the specialists will be taking advantage of this planned shutdown for ductwork cleaning as well, which connects the ovens with the separators. The length of the ductwork totals almost 100 meters. Over a two year period, so much smoke particulate had accumulated inside that it had formed a hard, flaky deposit, noticeably reducing the diameter of the ductwork. "Our service technician reported that it was time for a cleaning and provided a preliminary diagnosis accompanied by photographic images," says Tobias Huttenlocher. Along with his colleagues, he coordinated the on-site service from the headquarters in Kirchheim/Teck. In consultation with the customer, the dates for filter replacement and cleaning were confirmed with the company's in-house service team and its external cleaning specialist "Falkenstein Industrieservice". "Our customer merely approved an acceptable date. We handled everything else," says the service specialist.

Maintenance contract pays off

For Sandvik Tooling Supply, effective plant maintenance pays off. "The separators have now been operating continuously for six years and are functioning reliably," says Stefan Heimerdinger. A breakdown has occurred only once. "We reported it to Keller Lufttechnik at 4:00 pm. The next morning at 7:00 a.m., a Keller service technician was promptly on site and repaired the problem", Heimerdinger remembers. "It was only a matter of small concern, but we wouldn't have been able to handle it ourselves". The particularly short reaction time is one reason why Sandvik Tooling Supply chose the peace-of-mind type of service agreement. Additionally, a variety of repair and maintenance work is already included in the price. >



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Professional ductwork cleaning pays off: Clean ducts contribute to consistently good extraction performance, reduced energy consumption and minimized risk of fire.



If the ductwork is contaminated, the diameter of the duct may be noticeably reduced, posing a safety risk. Service technicians recognize the danger during maintenance and report when it is time for a cleaning.



Ductwork cleaning: A task for the experts

Increasing demand: At numerous industries, a plant inspection can indicate that ductwork cleaning is overdue. Keller Lufttechnik's After-Sales Service collaborates with the cleaning specialist "Falkenstein Industrieservice" from Schorndorf in order to better meet the large demand, especially in southern Germany.

"Clogged ductwork impairs the functionality of exhaust systems, leads to increased energy consumption and can also pose a real safety risk", says Tobias Huttenlocher, service specialist at Keller Lufttechnik in Kirchheim/Teck. He remembers, for example, that dirty ductwork has already created ductwork fires in the past. Thomas Falkenstein, Managing Director of the ductwork cleaning specialist "Falkenstein Industrieservice", reports an additional problem: "The accumulated material inside the ducts often weighs them down. Recently, we cleaned the piping system of a customer from 21 tons (!) of dirt". The pipe suspensions are not designed to support the additional weight. That's why the risk of ductwork collapsing is high.

Practical knowledge is required

For cleaning ductwork, "Falkenstein Industrieservice" has a very comprehensive approach. Thomas Falkenstein visits the company in advance to preview the condition of the ducts. "Depending on the type and consistency of the contaminants, we utilize a different cleaning technique. Brushes, suction, high-pressure or dry ice cleaning can be used," he explains. At Sandvik Tooling Supply, a hard, flaky deposit had formed inside the ducts. Falkenstein opted for high-pressure cleaning in which water pressurized between 500 and 2,500 bar dissolves the dirt from the walls of the piping. The specialists insert nozzles into the inspection openings of the ductwork. A suction hose at the opposite end of the duct extracts the cleaning water and drains it into a portable tank. The service provider then disposes of the polluted water in a professional manner.

High quality cleaning

"We are pleased with our beneficial collaboration with "Falkenstein Industrieservice," says Keller service specialist Huttenlocher. "Both Keller and our customers can always rely on their sound expertise, professional completion and excellent cleaning results." <

Contact: Tobias Huttenlocher
Phone: +49 7021 574-367
tobias.huttenlocher@keller-lufttechnik.de