

PROMOTING SAFETY IN THE WORKPLACE

MANUFACTURING SAFETY INNOVATIONS



Using a Conveyor for Debris Management

INNOVATION DESCRIPTION

THE PROBLEM:

At multiple times during a shift, debris build-up at the lathe's step feeder and was being manually removed using a long-handled rake. The work was physically challenging, heavy and required working in a tight space.

THE SOLUTION:

This difficult and challenging manual task was replaced using a **CONVEYOR SYSTEM** that features a slow-moving drag chain to transport debris to a waste conveyor, which then deposits it in the loader area. The conveyor solution is also movable, allowing the waste conveyor to be lifted out of the way, and also allows the cross conveyor to be easily removed.

During maintenance of the step feeder, the ramp can lay flat for easy access. As an added benefit, any major repairs required to the conveyors can be performed in the shop while production continues.

HOW TO APPLY THE SOLUTION:

Installing these **CONVEYOR SYSTEMS** has significantly reduced manual labour in the green-end clean-up role helping to reduce the risk of common strains and injuries. It also minimized minor interactions between workers and mobile equipment during debris removal.

INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT

This manual task was identified as a hazard point by employees and was shared with the lead team. The maintenance team then developed a system of conveyors to effectively handle the debris. The entire system was designed and built by an in-house welder.

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