

Thomas Regional Newsletter

Industry Market Trends

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Bathing Beauties

The right chemistry has made a difference at North Carolina-based Amplate, Inc., a job shop plating company. President David French learned about a reagent chemistry that could prolong the life of Amplate's acid baths.

The company began using the **PRO-pHx Acid Bath Extender**, which only calls for simple filtration, in its acid baths for many plating operations—such as its zinc, electrolytic nickel, electroless nickel and decorative chromium plating lines. The result was unusual longevity—many acid baths have passed the 20-month mark and still remain strong.

In fact, since starting to use the acid bath extender in Nov. 2000, the company has not needed to dump any acids.

For example, the acid bath extender has restored the chloride zinc-plating bath, which uses hydrochloric acid, more than 34 times in 20 months. This is no small feat considering that the tank is used for more than 60 hours per week. When the acid bath extender is added, the spent acid becomes as effective as if it were only two-days old.

Due to the acid bath extender, the company's black oxide tank is also performing as a two-day-old acid—when in fact, it's been using the reagent chemistry for over 23 months and is in use for more than 40 hours per week.

The hydrochloric acid tank on the zinc line has benefited from the acid bath extender as well. Previously, the tank had to be dumped every two weeks. Now, it works for five months straight without requiring additional acid extender chemistry.

Amazingly, the return on investment on the acid regeneration chemistry was two weeks. "We saved a ton of money and significantly reduced sludge shipped to the landfill," says French. The company previously disposed of more than 11,000 lb. of neutral salts from acids, but last year, acid disposal was nonexistent. In fact, using the chemistry has generated over \$25,000 in savings annually.

Sources: Long Live Acid Baths!

Beverly A. Graves

Products Finishing, Nov. 8, 2002

<http://www.pfonline.com/articles/110205.html>

Saving Valuable Bath Chemicals

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Products Finishing, Dec. 2, 2002

<http://www.pfonline.com/articles/web120201.html>

Shining Up Bright Nickel Plating Baths

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Products Finishing, Dec. 15, 2002

<http://www.pfonline.com/articles/120201.html>

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