

Infrared Dry-Off and Cure Ovens

Electric IR “Racks Up” Production

Outdoor South, a progressive and rapidly growing company in Laurel, MS, recently installed and put into motion a complete powder coating line for metal racks for ATVs and other ATV accessories they manufacture. Included with the system are a Fostoria Industries electric IR dry-off oven and a Fostoria electric IR curing oven.

Because they were skeptical of IR capabilities they traveled to Southern Companies' Technical Applications Center in Atlanta to view a demo powder coat and electric infrared oven system, upon the urging of Steve Armour, Mississippi Power's Industrial Account Representative. “ We have seen convection ovens in action, and when we saw how the infrared worked and how it cured the test parts, we were convinced.” It worked so well and so fast, the parts were cured in only 4 minutes!”, James added (Owner Ronnie Walters' son).



expansion and throughput.

They can now powder the parts, run them through the IR oven, and then wrap and box the parts in less than an hour. It is estimated that they have increased throughput in the paint operation by over 800%, with the same number of employees in the paint room, and the system is capable of handling even greater

Included in-line with the system, is an infrared water dry-off oven, just after the parts exit the wash operation. The oven dries the parts with 80 KW of short wave IR in just 5 feet of oven length, which means the parts are in the oven just over one minute.

Jim Dukes, Sales Representative for Sherwin-Williams, Chemical Coatings Sales Group, was one of the skeptics on the complete IR cure. According to Jim:

“I wasn't convinced that the electric infrared oven could achieve a full cure in that short a period of time and space, and I hadn't seen that kind of IR oven in operation before. When I saw their first production I was immediately impressed with the results. Seeing is believing!

Outdoor South has suddenly become quite a show place in the Laurel area. Many interested people have been in the facility for a tour, with special interest given to powder application and curing.