

# Superfici takes finishing process from hours to minutes

What used to take Nicholasville, KY-based ACT, INC. hours, now takes minutes. The finishing process of the manufacturer of store fixtures and cabinet doors has been dramatically transformed thanks to a new spray line from Superfici America, Inc.

ACT purchased a Superfici Compact Sprayer with PLC controls, a 14-meter laminar drying tunnel in two sections and a UV dryer with two lamps. "We bought a Superfici compact spray line with a mercury lamp and a gallium lamp," explains Rodney Worley, president and owner of the 43,000-sq.-ft. plant. "One lamp is for clear curing, and the other is for pigment curing. Prior to the line, we were using a pre-catalyzed lacquer mainly for doing our kitchen doors. We found that by going over to the Superfici line, the number of people we needed would be cut by 25 percent, and the number of parts we could put out per day would be about three times as many.

"The great thing about running a part through a UV line is that the part comes out dry so you can stack it right away and don't need to have it sitting around on a drying rack. You still have to put two coats on each side, but it takes only four minutes to get that coat through a cure as opposed to four hours before you would hit it with another coat. With spraying, drying, then spraying, then drying, then spraying and then drying again you had about 16 hours of waiting versus 16 minutes."

Worley says one thing that had held him back from buying a UV line before was that it often takes six months from the time one is purchased to when it can be delivered and set up. The learning curve might take another six months, so the whole

process would take a year. Luckily, Superfici had a machine that was ready to be delivered right away. "Superfici took me to two different sites to look at a machine in action, and I signed the papers," he says. "A week later the new machine was on the floor. Superfici implemented the system as quickly and smoothly as anyone could expect."

ACT, INC. offers about 30 different colors of doors and has taken on an additional challenge as well. "We have decided that we want to go as "green" as possible, so we are using a waterborne UV and waterborne stains," says Worley. "That way our HAPS and VOCs are cut to pretty much zero. So for all intents and purposes, we're going from a product that was 50 to 60 percent VOCs to one with less than one percent VOCs. The problem was the cabinet doors we do are hardwood rails and stiles with veneered center panels. You start wiping a waterbased stain on veneer and you get color issues. We worked hard with Akzo Nobel and finally got the quality we wanted. Superfici had put us in contact with several companies that make waterborne products.

"We haven't even started marketing this machine yet because we just now have everything in place. I like to get my SOPs down before I start doing something. I'll look at where are we going to be four or five years down the line and try to make our procedures now like they would be then so we're not trying to learn it as we go along. With the Superfici, we've got our procedures now in place for when we are going to be doing a lot more finish work. We're getting so many requests to do finish work already."

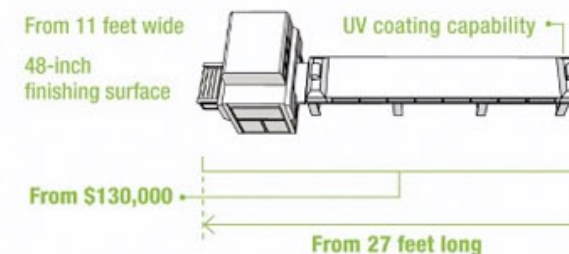
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