



NEWS RELEASE

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New Dunnage Washers at Regal Bring Additional Efficiencies

WOOSTER-Two, new state-of-the-art dunnage washers are scheduled for arrival this spring at the D+S Distribution Regal facility in Wooster, Ohio. The custom-built equipment is dedicated for long-term strategic partner Schaeffler Group USA, the leader in automotive mobility. For over 20 years, the team at Regal has washed, configured, bagged and moved Schaeffler components to and from the automotive giant's Wooster headquarters.

Dunnage inside the automotive industry is the returnable, reusable or recyclable totes used for transporting components to the assemble line. A dunnage wash refers to the cleaning of dunnage with high-tech wash systems built to a variety of specifications. Dunnage needs are customized to the end automotive manufacturer and cleanliness is a priority.

Dunnage cleaning is just as important as cleaning parts during the manufacturing process. Washing is the number one way to eliminate contamination from machine coolants, oils and other debris left behind during the manufacturing process. Originally only required by the automotive industry, dunnage cleaning has grown to include other industries.

"Because the Regal facility was originally a manufacturing plant, it is ideally suited for dunnage washing," said **Jon Ansel, President of D+S Distribution**. "The building is equipped for expansion of the water, sewer and electric needed to operate the high-powered machinery."

D+S is reconfiguring the building layout to accommodate the new machines according to **Jim Hasapis, Regal Operations Manager**. Hasapis estimates it will take 10,000 sq. ft. to hold and operate the latest washers. They will share space with the existing dunnage washer. At Regal, dunnage is washed and assembled into specific sets matching the client's specifications along with bagging the trays. Divider washing is also completed for the work in process.

"Not only will the new machines meet the increased washing requirements for current Schaeffler customers, they will allow for growth. Growth will come with output and dry time," said **Scott McCrary, Packing Engineer with Schaeffler**. The latest washers also meet customer specifications for contamination according to McCrary. "The addition of the new washers fit Schaeffler's 2020 Vision of 'more with the same' which is based on efficiency improvements in processing, material flow, ordering and handling," added McCrary.

On average, Regal washes 47,000 pieces a month, double the amount 15 years ago. Six trailers a day, Monday through Friday, arrive at Schaeffler's Wooster facility at two-hour intervals beginning at 8 a.m. providing the client with supplies to work its seven-day week schedule. Integrated Logistics Services (ILS), an affiliated transportation entity of D+S Distribution provides the local cartage.

"The collaborative engagement between Schaeffler and D+S on this project spanned nine months. It culminated in the most efficient and cost-effective dunnage cleaning solution in the industry. We are very proud of our teams' accomplishments and look forward to a successful installation and long-term operating efficiencies," said Ansel.

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