

Pretreatment Processes Restart

Detailed instructions for restarting a Pretreatment process has been outlined below:

If washers were not dumped prior to the unexpected shutdowns due to COVID 19, following are recommendations to bring them back online successfully.

Required Products

- Defer

Rinse Tanks:

1. Completely drain all rinse tanks
2. Hose down the tank walls to remove any residue or solids.
3. If time permits, allow the tanks to remain empty for a few days. If bacterial growth occurred, absence of water helps kill microorganisms.
4. Refill tank with fresh water right before start-up

If rinse tanks cannot be drained, check tanks to see if any oil or material collected on the surface of the tank creating a blanket. Physically remove any material floating on the surface. This can be done by overflowing the material, or vacuuming off the blanket, or using an oil absorbent pad. Pumps should be started a day or two before production begins to introduce oxygen to the system. This will help minimize any offensive odor on start up.

If time permits, cleaning and sanitizing the rinse stage would be advantageous. A detailed procedure for [Cleaning and Sanitizing Industrial Spray Washers](#) is available from DuBois.

Cleaner Solutions:

If cleaning solutions cannot be dumped and recharged, any floating oil should be removed from the surface before the recirculating pumps are turned on. Vacuuming or absorbing the oil with a pig absorbent mat is an easy way to remove the oil. Like the rinse tanks, pumps should be started a day or two before production begins to minimize any offensive odors.

Once oil has been removed, add water to bring solution to desired level. Recirculate the washer. Check cleaner concentration. Add cleaner if needed to maintain recommended concentrations. Ensure solution temperatures are at recommended levels before starting production. Check nozzles and alignment for optimal spray impingement.

Screens should be cleaned with high pressure water and filter bags should be changed out with new bags.

Once production begins, observe parts after rinsing for Water-Break-Free surfaces.

Conversion Coatings / Sealing Rinse:

For conversion coating solutions and sealing rinses, if they cannot be dumped and recharged, any floating material should be removed from the surface before the recirculating pumps are turned on. This residue can be vacuumed off to remove from the surface. Like the rinse tanks, pumps should be started a day or two before production begins to minimize any offensive odors.

Add water, if necessary, to bring solution level to desired height. Recirculate the solution for 30 minutes. Measure the concentration of the solution and adjust to recommended concentration levels. Measure the pH and adjust, if necessary, with pH adjusters to recommended pH ranges. Ensure solution temperatures are at recommended levels before starting production. Check nozzles and alignment for optimal spray impingement.

Screens should be cleaned with high pressure water and filter bags should be changed out with new bags.

If bacterial slime has formed on the sides of the wash tank and on screens, DuBois' Defer can be used to aid in minimizing or eliminating this biofilm. **Defer** can be added tank side at concentrations between 0.1 and 0.2%.

Once production begins, observe parts exiting washer for a good conversion coating.

Please consult your DuBois representative for SDS and any application specific information that you might need.