

Case Study

Case Study: Superior Cleaning Performance & Efficiency

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Central Kentucky Processing (CKP) Inc. has been a trusted name in precision plating for the automotive and appliance industries for decades, delivering high-quality finishes that meet demanding performance standards. When challenges arose with their surface preparation process, the team turned to MacDermid Enthone Industrial Solutions to help improve part quality and optimize production efficiency. Through close collaboration and the implementation of advanced surface conditioning chemistries, CKP achieved transformative results, enhancing both process performance and product appearance.

A Longstanding Relationship, Reenergized

CKP began utilizing MacDermid Enthone chemistry in 2008, and in early 2024, the company set out to resolve cleaning challenges that were impacting both throughput and finish quality. Parts were coming off the plating line with inconsistent coloration, requiring double cleaning cycles that added time and cost to the plating process. Despite multiple attempts, their previous supplier was unable to deliver a solution that could effectively clean complex parts while maintaining efficiency.

“Our collaboration came to life when we began working closely on CKP’s surface preparation challenges,” said Brian Saas, Industry Manager at MacDermid Enthone. “We saw an opportunity not only to solve a complex plating challenge, but to elevate their cleaning process and deliver measurable performance improvements.”

Cleaner Chemistry, Brighter Results

To address CKP’s pretreatment challenges, MacDermid Enthone recommended ENPREP 109 and Process 235L, two high-performance cleaners engineered to remove soils efficiently and ensure consistent plating results. CKP introduced the chemistries in January using a double-cleaning cycle to compare performance

against their existing process. “The transition wasn’t rushed,” said Saas. “We wanted CKP to have complete ownership and comfort with their process. Our goal was to deliver a solution that performed consistently and was easy for their operators to maintain.”

The improvement in cleaning quality exceeded expectations, and by early February, the new system was fully integrated, with additional plating lines brought online in the following months. “I noticed the difference one morning when looking at our striker plates,” said Mark Stamper, Owner of CKP. “They used to have a dull, inconsistent appearance, sometimes with yellow or blue tones. Suddenly, they were bright and consistent. I thought someone had adjusted the brightener, but when we checked, nothing had changed; the improvement came entirely from the cleaners. That’s when we realized just how much impact the MacDermid Enthone process had.”

The adoption of ENPREP 109 and Process 235L significantly improved product quality and operational efficiency. CKP saw a 30% increase in production capacity on its 10-station barrel line and reduced rework from scale and incomplete cleaning by 10% - 15%. The enhanced process efficiency also created an opportunity for the team to do ongoing maintenance during the week, helping sustain long-term reliability and consistent results.

Relationships Built on Trust and Performance

The collaboration between CKP and MacDermid Enthone has evolved into a strong, trusted relationship built on mutual respect and shared goals. “It’s always a pleasure working with the CKP team,” said Saas. “They take pride in their product quality and are always open to new ideas to better serve their customers. We work side-by-side, in the lab, on the line, or in the front office, to ensure we’re achieving the best possible outcomes together.”

Stamper echoed the sentiment:

“The support we received from MacDermid Enthone exceeded our expectations. They helped us tailor the process to our exact needs and made sure everything came online smoothly. Their chemistry not only improved our process but gave us confidence that we are delivering the best possible products to our customers.”

Looking Ahead

With advanced cleaners now in place, CKP continues to strengthen its position as a trusted supplier to leading OEMs. Their collaboration with MacDermid Enthone is a true testament to how chemistry, technical expertise, and a commitment to service can transform production outcomes.

“We are more than a chemistry supplier,” said Saas. “We take the time to understand customer challenges and work together to build solutions that deliver real results. We look forward to achieving many years of shared success alongside CKP.”

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