PURDUE UNIVERSITY | Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Client Success Story

POLYCOR (INDIANA)

BEDFORD, INDIANA

Lean Training and Digital Mapping Lead to Operational Efficiencies and Improvements

> "The team really enjoyed the Lean training which was easy to see through the engagement in discussions and activities. The instructor kept the material relevant and relatable for our team. As we continue forward, we are encouraging the team to use what they have learned, find those areas of inefficiencies, and make changes to remove the obstacles and reduce waste."

Jeremy Halterman
Director of Fabrication
Polycor (Indiana)

The Challenge:

Polycor (Indiana) reached out to Purdue MEP for support in validating and improving the operational efficiency of its Bedford limestone cutting facility through Lean implementation training and value stream mapping of one of its fabrication lines.

The Solution:

Purdue MEP conducted a Lean 101 training with 16 team members from Polycor. Time was also allocated to creating a spaghetti diagram with a digital Value Stream Map (eVSM) of the most complex and process-driven product lines, thin veneer. The eVSM began with the point the stone is brought to the saws until the finished product is in the shipment area, with a visual representation of the value stream.

The Results:

The Lean training was instrumental in creating a base knowledge of waste reduction techniques for a variety of employees at Polycor. With a mindset focused on process improvement and minimizing excessive handling or steps within the product journey, employees are now looking for changes to be more efficient.

The eVSM process validated Polycor's assumptions of the inefficiencies within the thin veneer product line. It became easy to identify extra handling and movement on that line to produce that product.

Impacts:

- **9.8% improvement in throughput** on thin veneer product line due to revamping and removing wasted steps
- **Will produce $265,000 more in revenue with same labor over the next year** due to improvement of efficiencies
- **Trained 16 employees** in Lean implementation best practices, tools, and techniques

The team re-laid out one area specific to that product line that was crossing multiple steps (slabbing, breakers, thin saws) to reposition stations in a more efficient route. Improvements have been realized in not only the thin veneer process by eliminating wasted steps but also in the breaking process by repositioning equipment for greater efficiency.

POLYCOR NATURAL STONE

Read more at: www.mep.purdue.edu/client-successes/polycor/

ABOUT MEP

Purdue Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) provides high-value solutions to help Indiana businesses maximize their success. As advocates for Indiana's thousands of manufacturers, our staff identifies areas of improvement, streamlines processes, and ultimately increases competitiveness. Purdue MEP serves hundreds of companies annually by implementing continuous improvement principles in the areas of productivity, growth, and technology.