

VEGRA and the Environment - "Take it easy" with EASY-CLEANER

Protection of the environment is a good thing - especially when you can even save money at the same time. VEGRA Austria invited for a demonstration in practice to Unter-Oberndorf in order to prove the advantages of their fountain solution and cleaner filtration.

Michael Pletz

VEGRA has always been dedicated to the ecological idea, however, not without close regard to the cost / advantage side for the user. Therefore, besides Austrian printing pros also visitors from the neighbour countries could be welcomed. At the beginning of the demonstration, the Manager of VEGRA Austria, Mr Rudolf Weiß, gave a lecture about the savings to be achieved, with the help of a simple calculation example: "Assuming that the disposal of 1,000 litres of contaminated cleaner or fountain solution costs 400. -- to 700. -- EUR, these costs could be saved by using our recycling program."

Please remember: Besides thermal disposal, distillation and filtration are known as conventional disposal procedures. However, since the introduction of vegetable cleaners and cleaners classified with AIII as well as products with high boiling point (and mixtures thereof) distillation had to be rejected for safety reasons. On-site filtration also failed, even though the membrane technique seemed to be promising in the beginning.

Besides the external solution by oil based cleaning with emulsifiers, VEGRA also offers on-site rapid wash- and fountain solution-recycling. The name of this marvellous machine is **EASY-CLEANER Compact B-01** and it works fully- or semi-automatically.

Practice makes perfect...

Already since 1990, VEGRA made their mark with fountain solution recycling. The initiative came from a pilot project with a newspaper printer in Sofia, Bulgaria and this certainly not for reasons of environmental protection, but rather for the printing process itself. When the first spray dampening units were introduced, a largely clean fountain solution circuit was essential in order to prevent plugging of the nozzles.

In the field of cleaning agents, VEGRA has for a long time already been doing research with mineral oil free cleaning agents - with success! A good example for this is **VEGRA VOC-Free Pressroom Cleaner Concentrate 220 400**, as Mr Weiß said: "As you will surely know, the prices for crude oil are constantly rising with no end in sight on long-term. In addition, the cleaning on-site offers also many other advantages, as e.g. logistical ones."

The core of **EASY-CLEANER B-01 Compact** represents a ceramic filter bar with a length of 500 mm which is integrated in a module case made of stainless steel. A two-step block-pump made of stainless steel sets the EASY-CLEANER in motion. A pneumatic back flush unit makes sure that everything works continually - no plugging and therefore no maintenance necessary. The work tank has a capacity of about 350 litres. Depending on the degree of contamination, 10 to 30 l/h can be processed.

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At the IFRA-Expo 2005, the VEGRA subsidiary EASYLAC will present the following innovation: A complete cleaning unit in the form of a cleaning container for quick, environmentally friendly cleaning of ink and dampening rollers, of metal sheets, protective grids, doctor blades and much more.

Rudolf Weiß concluding with regard to the VOC-free recyclable Pressroom Cleaner Concentrate: "Despite it's ecologically positive properties the performance of this cleaner is enormous - even car rims get absolutely clean!" A matter for teleshop? Why not? - as VEGRA regards the application by far not limited to all offset procedures, to flexo printing, roller coaters and binderies. Anyway, we wish big expansion with these innovative developments!