



HK Pipelines

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HK Ingenuity Meets the Challenge

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Earlier this spring, Hydro-Klean was approached by a local contractor-supply company to assist with cleaning containers that formerly held concrete-curing

compound. The curing compound is a white, paint-like liquid that you may have seen used where construction crews are pouring new concrete, especially on interstate projects. To be more competitive with their pricing, Logan Contractor's Supply of Urbandale, Iowa, purchases the curing compound in 5,000 gallon semi-tankers and fills the totes at their facility. However, to maintain a high level of quality control for the product they sell, Logan wished to clean the interior of the totes prior to refilling them.

Removal of dried material on the inside of the tote's upper surface presented a serious challenge. The totes are plastic, 275-gallon, intermediate bulk containers, surrounded by an aluminum cage. They are approximately 4' x 4' x 4' in size, and their center is located 4" from the fill opening and a 2" drain valve.

Custom-Designed Solutions

Armed with the tote dimensions and a dirty tote to experiment with, Hydro-Klean personnel contacted a specialty, high-pressure, water-nozzle manufacturer for assistance. The manufacturer custom built a rotary nozzle to clean the interior of the tote, including

the difficult "ceiling" portion. The flow of the water rotated the nozzle, while two streams of water pointed at opposing angles removed the material from the tote.

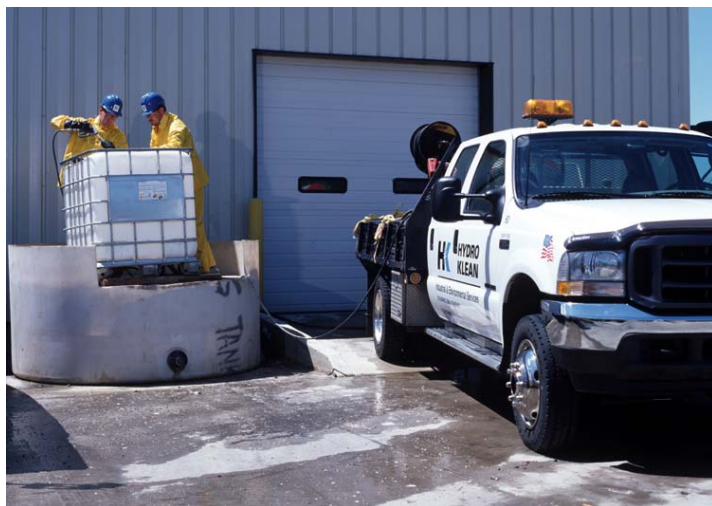
Now that Hydro-Klean had devised a way to clean the totes, the staff faced the problem of containing the rinsate, so that it could be collected and transported to a permitted disposal facility. Although the curing compound and rinsate from the cleaning process were non-hazardous wastes, they were not suitable for discharge into a storm sewer or the ground surface. The Logan Contractor's Supply facility lacked an area which could be used as a containment structure for the washing process, so it was back to the drawing board for the Hydro-Klean staff.

The emphasis for the project was to be competitive and efficient. Building a permanent pit or containment structure at the Logan facility would be expensive and time consuming, clearly not in the customer's best interest. After much thought and planning, HK personnel designed and built an above-ground containment structure in which to wash totes. The structure evolved from a modified polyethylene tank and a pickup load of treated lumber. The result is a mobile, tote-washing station (or MTWS, as it is called by certain HK

staff) that allows HK personnel to travel to the site, wash between fifty and sixty totes per day and collect all the rinsate material from the cleaning process. The rinsate is then removed and transported to the disposal facility via one of Hydro-Klean's powerful vacuum trucks.

Another Happy Customer

Jeff Logan, Operations Manager for Logan Contractor's Supply, commented, "Hydro-Klean has been excel-



HK Personnel Work Hard to Clean Another Tote

lent to work with! We had to overcome a few procedural modifications and through it all HK proved their willingness to help and see that the job got done."

Once again, Hydro-Klean's experience and contacts were able to assess the situation, develop a plan and ultimately provide a successful, economical solution for the customer.