

Schwank Case Study:

Schwank's cutting edge technology delivers energy savings, comfort and noise control



"At Applewood, we are constantly re-investing in the latest equipment and technologies, to ensure that we remain at the leading edge of our industry.

The new ultraSchwank radiant tube heating system from Schwank is much quieter and more energy-efficient than the previous Schwank system installed at our other factory."

Anthony Menecola
President
Applewood Glass & Mirror Inc.



Equipment
ultraSchwank

Facility
50,000 square-foot specialty glass manufacturing plant

Results

- 58% fuel savings
- Employee comfort is maintained despite cold air infiltration from loading docks



The Facility

Established in 1979, Applewood Glass & Mirror Inc. has been the leader in the architectural glazing industry for many years.

The company moved to a brand new facility near Toronto, where it operates a 50,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility with the capacity to handle a wide range of aluminum and structural glazing products, ranging from simple entrance and window frames to large pre-glazed curtain wall projects.

Since energy costs account for 14% of direct glass production costs, the major concerns for Anthony Menecola, Applewood's President, were to reduce natural gas consumption and noise level in the shop area, while ensuring employee comfort.

The Issue

The challenge was to provide uniform heat to the shop area, as it is part of a "glass building" designed to showcase the range and quality of Applewood's products. This area is enclosed within four walls. Only one of them is shared with office space, which is heated. Another has five loading docks and the two remaining walls have spectacular floor to ceiling windows. Moreover, one of these walls is opposite the loading docks, causing cold air to flow through the shop area.

In addition, due to massive amounts of glass processed and treated at the facility, glass dust is an ever-present health hazard. Therefore, for this particular application, gas-fired radiant tube heaters are the safest alternative, as these can be ducted outside for safe and trouble-free sealed combustion.

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INNOVATIVE HEATING SOLUTIONS



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Implementation

Applewood moved to its new Southfield facility in early 2009. Anthony Menecola, chose Schwank to provide comfort to the 40,000 square foot production area with high ceilings, wide open spaces, glass windows, and concrete floors. Applewood's other facility in Wolfsdale is heated by an earlier Schwank model of tube heaters. Anthony was very satisfied with the equipment's performance and low maintenance costs.

The product chosen for Southfield was ultraSchwank, the most efficient radiant tube heater in North America. This is a new generation of technology leapfrogging other conventional tube heaters, a culmination of three years of research and development.

Results

Despite the structural challenges, Schwank was able to provide the perfect heating solution for this unique environment. Larger capacity heaters were installed above the loading docks, to offset high air infiltration. In addition, heaters installed near aluminum and glass walls, were fitted with large capacity burners, to reduce the effect of cold air convection.

Applewood achieved fuel savings of 58% compared to conventional heating systems, and 23% compared to standard radiant tube heating equipment. Applewood employees have reported to be very comfortable at their new location, and they also noticed substantial noise reduction.

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