

To continually examine our processes to provide greater value to our customers without waste.

The Lean Line

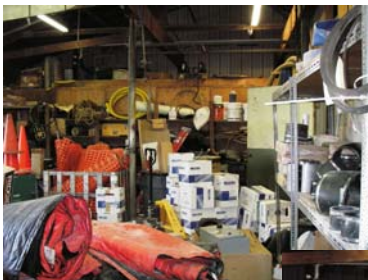
Back Room to Show Room

Grunau's Underground/Excavation Department investigated ways to eliminate waste and save time retrieving materials and equipment. This led to the team deciding to 5S their storage room which is in back of the Tool Room. The team met to pre-plan the activity by discussing their needs, including what was essential to keep in storage. The team decided that new shelving and improved lighting would be needed. They also required an open space to bring in their large equipment for maintenance.

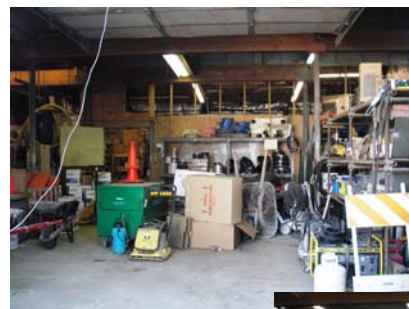
On the day of the 5S Lean Event, the team took everything outside to sort through. Hundreds of pounds of outdated and useless items were either recycled or disposed of. The room was cleaned and years of cobwebs and dirt were swept away. New shelving was assembled, the "Super Secret Room" was built, hooks were moved to convenient areas, and then needed items were brought back in. By the end of the day, the Underground room was clean, organized, and labeled.

5S activities provided improvements in time and ergonomics. Since the event last summer, the average time required to retrieve items from the Underground room dropped over 65% and time wasted in treasure hunts has been eliminated. The room is organized and labeled so all team members know what is in the room and where the items are located.

Placing heavier items on carts reduced the ergonomic load, saving aches and pains down the road. These minor changes will produce an annual savings of \$8,800 in labor and countless dollars in reduced aches, pains, and frustration. At times the simplest lean tools can produce remarkable results.



BEFORE



AFTER

