

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

The Lean Line

The Making of A Tool Belt

After running up & down scaffolding his first day in the business, a sprinkler fitter in our Orlando branch started using a tool belt. Over the years, he has been able to incorporate the tool belt's use for the fire protection trade to make his job easier in the field.

The tool belt allows him to minimize trips to the gang-box, material storage, and going up/down ladders, especially when in an area that is hard to reach. We already know that material handling eats up about 30% of our productivity on job sites, so any means of saving time running for material, tools, and equipment cuts waste.

The belt he used before was rather small so in May this year, he started researching the Internet and purchased different pieces that would work together to meet his needs on the job. He started with a 2-1/2" belt that fit comfortably on the hips, and then added an Electrician's pouch on the left side and a 9-pocket carpenter pouch on the right side; in the middle is a heavy-duty tape holder.



← OLD vs. NEW →



The bag on the right has plenty of compartments for small often-used items such as screws, rings, buttons, inserts, etc. The larger pockets hold items such as nipples, 90's, gutter pieces, a drywall saw, and 10" pipe wrench. There is space for a level, 2 pair of channel-locks hooked on one side, and a tape measure in front. The monster-hook added to the belt holds an impact screw-gun and it swivels for easier use. He also found a hammer-holder that he put on the right side to hold an 18" pipe wrench.



This customized tool belt balances well on the body, and now that he's used to wearing it, said he'll never give it up. Thanks for sharing your idea so others in our business can maybe customize their own tool belt for their trade and help eliminate waste on the job site.

