

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

The Lean Line

“Best Practices”

Our projects are evaluated not only for financial outcome, but also for ideas on work practices that could be improved upon or helpful at other jobsites. Three of our employees made some suggestions from their previous work at a local hospital, and some of those ideas have already been implemented at another hospital project, while others are under consideration. Their suggestions included the following:

Hardware Box: A list of items to be included in this box and the minimum amounts needed were refined by the fitter, plumber, and sheet metal. The Hardware Box comes to the job filled so the foreman doesn't have to do, and the vendor then fills the box for the duration of the job.

Coring Box: Set up by the plumber and fitter with 1 large machine and 1 small machine with bits from 1½ -10. The Coring Box allows holes to be easily created when missed or added later to the job.

Rigging Box: The original idea of this box was to include everything needed to move chillers to a small air compressor. The Rigging Box includes 3 types of chain falls, 2 come-alongs, assorted nylon straps, beam clamps hook-ups, machine dollies, pipe bar, and 2 kinds of bottle jacks. With a Rigging Box on hand, when equipment shows up, they are ready to handle the situation and take everything on the job.

Copper Box: Down-sizing and 2 separate boxes would help since the previous copper boxes were too big, heavy, and dangerous with the possibility of tipping over. It was suggested the boxes should be kept simple and open out on both sides. One box could be filled with standard fittings up to 1½", solder, flux, sandpaper, burn blankets, and reamers. The other box could hold copper hardware and misc. fittings as required by the particular job.

Trucking Board: This board tracks delivery dates and can be used by all trades to coordinate trucking.

Jobsite Mailbox: If a mailbox can be placed on the jobsite (depending on the local post office & jobsite location), it would "force" vendors to come to the remodeling locations instead of possibly to the main building where deliveries can get mixed up.

Email Communications: Emails provide written documents when needed for a printed hard-copy with dates. Emails can be quick and reliable sources of communication for notifying vendors of changes, obtaining delivery tracking numbers, tracking and reviewing RFI's, and sending drawings with changes to obtain new pricing.

Cell Phone Antenna: Nextel installed an antenna on the Grunau jobsite trailer to provide better reception for the Nextel phones in a work area that had otherwise poor reception.

Please share your ideas that might help make our future projects even better.