

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

The Lean Line



SHEET METAL SHOP IMPROVEMENTS

With four major projects beginning about the same time, the Sheet Metal Shop realized changes were needed to meet expectations. Sheet Metal shop members who brainstormed ideas decided an additional area for fabrication would be necessary to keep up with demand and to keep orders segregated. While investigating which area would relinquish the most space through reorganization, the team discovered a couple of additional work cell changes would improve production as well.



To create more floor space, two work cells and a portion of the shipping area were relocated. The first work cell involved moving the turning-vane machine closer to benches to cut down on the time tradesmen spend walking from one area of the shop to another. This move creates an ergonomic work area, eliminates unnecessary steps, and removes congestion in the fabrication area of the shop. This change helped save approximately 12 physical steps each time the machine is used.



For the second work cell, the cold saw was moved to a central location. This, in turn, allowed the conduit rack to be in closer proximity to the saw. The rack used to be at the far end of the cutting bench so it took additional time to retrieve the conduit and cut it to length. Shifting the rack to the area directly behind the operator saves 20% off the time it took before the move.

This lean project was begun with the goal to increase floor space, but ended with identifying other areas of improvement. Their ideas and changes opened more than 2,200 square feet of floor space and will account for \$17,350 in annual cost savings.

It is amazing what we can identify as possibilities when we stop and look at our processes from a different viewpoint. One never knows where the next great idea will generate, so we all must be willing to ask, "What if?" If you would like to share a successful project or have a Lean idea, please contact a member of the Grunau Lean Team.