

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

# The Lean Line

**WOW**



Focusing on the Waste:  
**“Motion”**

As one of the 8 common wastes that we want to tackle this year in our war on Waste, this week’s focus is on the waste titled **“Motion”**. Once again, “waste” is defined as anything other than the MINIMUM amount of time, equipment, tools, material, parts, people, and space required to ADD VALUE to the product/service/information-data.

Examples of **Motion** waste include:

- Looking for material, drawings, tools, equipment
- Searching for files, parts, misplaced items
- Seeking information from PM, Engineer, Vendor, Superintendent, Shops, Foremen, Estimators
- Running to supply house or shop for forgotten items
- Not completing all available work while in area
- Not having most-used items in immediate work area / closest to you
- Walking between shop machines, office cubicles, on job-sites
- Hand-delivering “mail” to co-workers when it could be placed in your out-box

Following is a real-life story of **Motion** waste by a Grunau employee:



Wasted Motion; we all do it. Not intentionally, of course, but it’s a very real part of our everyday work in construction. In fact, sometimes the best of intentions still fall short. I was doing a job for a school building a couple of years ago, changing out a duplex hot water system and adding a Holby tempering valve. It was a small job, although I didn’t have the benefit of working out of a truck. Consequently, I knew I would need to plan thoroughly to ensure I would have all of the required material to complete the job. I thought I covered all the bases, among them, checking the Holby valve for the proper inlet and outlet connections. I ordered all the material, and when the material arrived, I returned to complete the job. Unfortunately I was not able to do so. When I originally examined the Holby valve, I assumed the Hot inlet and the Cold inlet would be the same size. They weren’t. So I immediately ran to the supply house for the missing adapter. “Emergency” trips to the supply house, that is wasted Motion. In all, I probably lost an hour of time because of it. Now this may not seem like a great loss, but I only told you of one incident, it’s when you consider the frequency of these situations that you recognize how significant wasted Motion can be.

In fact I was bit twice on that job, because I received a call back from the Project Manager, that I had never piped the condensate from the power vents. Not completing all available work when in an area, that’s another great source of wasted MOTION. We sometimes think it is an inevitable part of construction, but do we “continually examine our processes to provide greater value to our customers without waste”? It’s our conviction in doing so that separates Grunau from the competition.

Let one of the Lean Team members know how you have reduced or eliminated **Motion** waste so we can keep tabs of our progress. **You can help us win this War on Waste!**