LEAN
The GRUNAU Way

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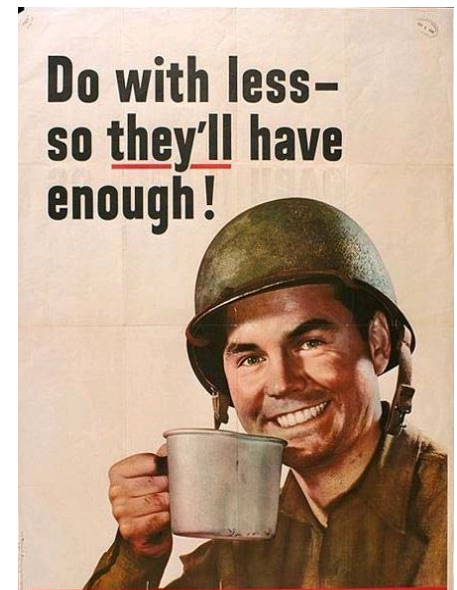
The Lean Line

WOW

Focusing on the Waste:
"Inventory"

Another of the 8 common wastes that we want to tackle this year in our War on Waste (WOW) is titled **"Inventory"**.   Remember that "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 **Inventory** waste could include some or all of the following:

- Parts not needed (over-orders or not figured out yet)
- Material ordered too soon
- Stockpiling materials too early for fab
- Tools on hand but not being used (spares)
- Tools not needed (extra)
- Tools & material over-purchased for stock
- Tools & material purchased for "just in case"
- Tools & material lost, "grew legs", or not returned
- Tools and material not available for other jobs
- Not returning excess for return credit (back to vendor)
- Not completing paperwork associated with returns to vendor (RMA)
- Over-purchasing of supplies, forms, envelopes, marketing material, etc.
- Storage and movement of over-supply
- Unneeded documents retained (storage costs, movement)
- Overloading IT storage (data files, old emails, etc.)
- Printer at every desk
- Grunau trucks assigned to people who may not need them
- Having pagers or cell phones that aren't being used

Do with less– so they'll have enough!

Following are real-life examples of **Inventory** waste at Grunau:

- During a shut-down at one job-site over the Thanksgiving holidays last year, 8 cutting outfits were ordered when only 2 were actually used; the other 6 had to be returned to the vendor
- When a hardware box is not ordered for a job; we typically end up with over-ordering of material and partially-opened boxes at the completion of the job
- When ordering a LARGE hardware box for a SMALL job, we end up with excess inventory; it is better to use a small hardware box
- What appears to save us money by "quantity discounts" up front for forms / marketing material / etc., often costs us more in the end with storage, movement of material, and reprints before stock is depleted due to changes
- Fabricating material too far in advance of installation can end up in the scrap pile due to changes on the job

Reducing or eliminating **INVENTORY** is easy and costs us nothing to do. Let one of the Lean Team members know how **you** have helped us win this **War on Waste.**

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