



AIM

Application for
Industrial
Markets

New Hot Melt System Increases Production Speed for Alpha Window Systems Ltd.



press between the PIB and polysulfide applications for a 24 hour cure cycle. In addition, the glass had to be cleaned after the sealant was applied. The temperature of the insulated glass room had to be maintained at 70° F (21° C).

Because their business had increased significantly, Alpha Windows was looking for a way to simplify and speed up production, as well as reduce lead times on their windows.

GRACO SOLUTION

The local Graco sealant and adhesive equipment distributor, who specializes in the window and door industry, suggested Alpha Windows switch to a hot melt butyl insulated glass sealant. Because of the distributor's good working relationship with material suppliers in this industry, he was able to suggest a leading supplier of hot melt butyl. The distributor and the material supplier then both recommended the Graco Therm-O-Flow 55 hot melt bulk unloader system for this manual application.

The combination of the material supplier's recommendation and the service of the local distributor caused Alpha Windows to purchase the Therm-O-Flow 55 drum unloader hot melt system consisting of a Graco Senator 19:1 air-operated

Customer
Alpha Window Systems Ltd.

Application
Window sealant process

Objective
To simplify and speed up production and reduce lead times

Graco Solution
Graco Therm-O-Flow 55 hot melt bulk unloader and manual hot melt dispense valve with heated hose

Results
Simplified and increased speed of production, produced labor savings and reduced lead times

HISTORY

Alpha Window Systems Ltd., located in Bay Shore, N.Y., is a manufacturer of custom, steel reinforced vinyl windows and patio doors. In addition, they also manufacture their own insulated glass. This 13-year-old company sells direct to the consumer, does their own installations and offers a 40-year warranty on their windows. Alpha Windows serves Long Island and the five boroughs of New York.

PROBLEM

Alpha Windows was using a Polyisobutylene (PIB) two-component polysulfide sealant process. This two step process required placing the window in a

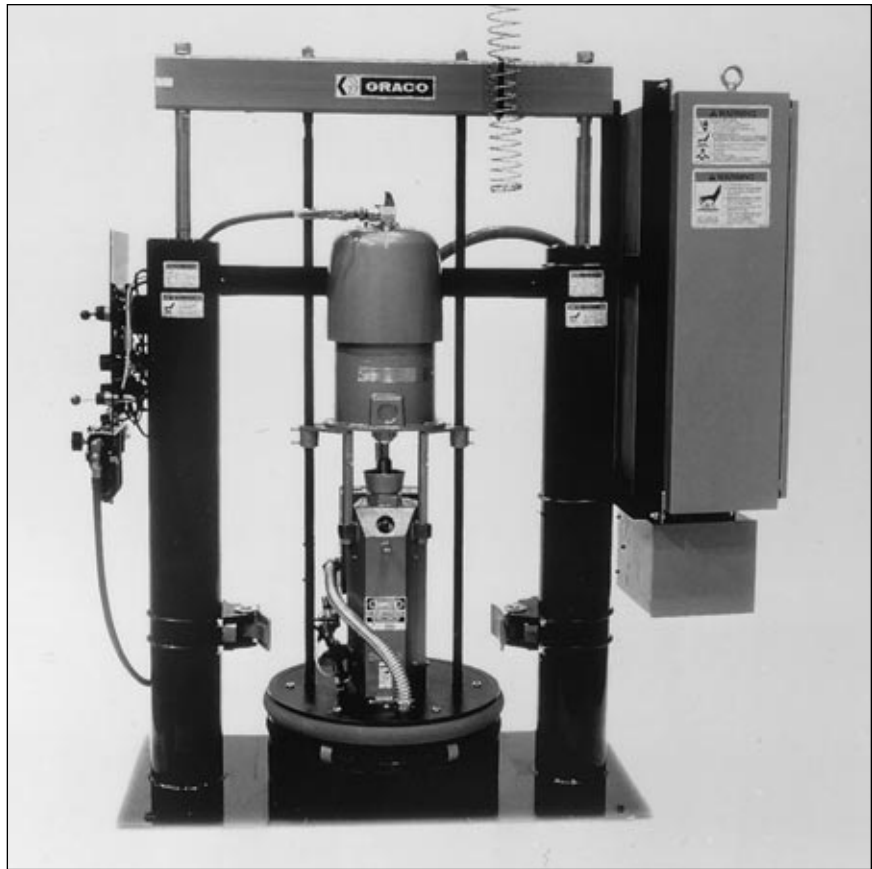


pump, a manual hot melt dispense valve and a 10-foot (3.05 m) heated hose.

BENEFITS

Alpha Windows has benefited in many ways with the new system. The hot melt single seal process has eliminated one step in the manufacturing process. The hot melt material is approximately \$4.00 (US) per pound less than the polysulfide. Labor savings were realized with the elimination of three glass cleaners. It is no longer necessary to maintain a constant 70° F (21° C) in the insulated glass room. The cure time has been reduced from 24 hours to a few minutes. Maintenance of the single component hot melt system is less than that of the plural component polysulfide system it replaced due to the use of fewer hoses and pump parts.

Most importantly however, Alpha Windows has reduced their lead time on their windows to two weeks. •



For additional product information or the name of a local authorized Graco distributor, call toll free 800-36-4023
In Minnesota: 612-623-6743
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