

'GOOD HOUSEKEEPING' GUIDE APPLICATIONS IN COMPANIES

SBA

Sustainable Business Associates

DELTA PROGRAMME

DELTA Syria

50% WATER RECYCLED BY CLOSING THE LOOP AL-BAHRA TEXTILE CO., DYEING & FINISHING COMPANY IN DAMASCUS

WHAT IS THE 'GOOD HOUSEKEEPING' GUIDE?

This Guide is a simple management tool developed by GTZ/P3U and SBA. It contains Checklists and describes common sense measures that companies can take related to 'good housekeeping'.

These measures can help companies to reduce their production costs, enhance product quality, and minimise the impact of industrial operations on the environment.

IN BRIEF

Knowing that the dyeing process is highly water consuming, the Maintenance Manager of Al-Bahra Textile Co. was trying to find a global solution to improve his

in-house system. Good Housekeeping helped him look at the most water consuming step in his factory rather than focus on the end-of-pipe problem. In the case of Bahra Textile Co. recycling almost clean water from the washing machines was the first eco-efficient step ahead of reconstructing a new waste water treatment plant.

THE CHALLENGE

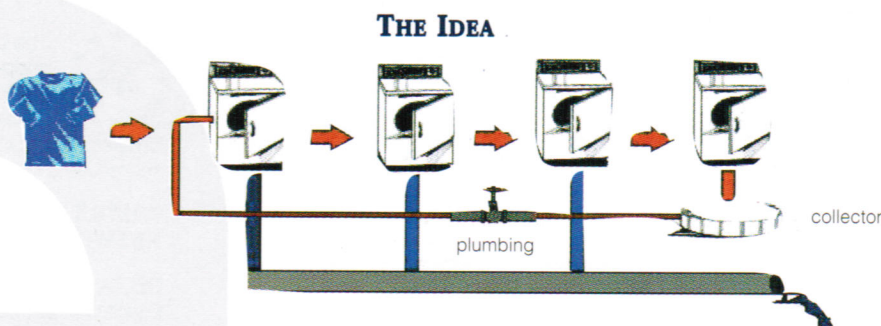
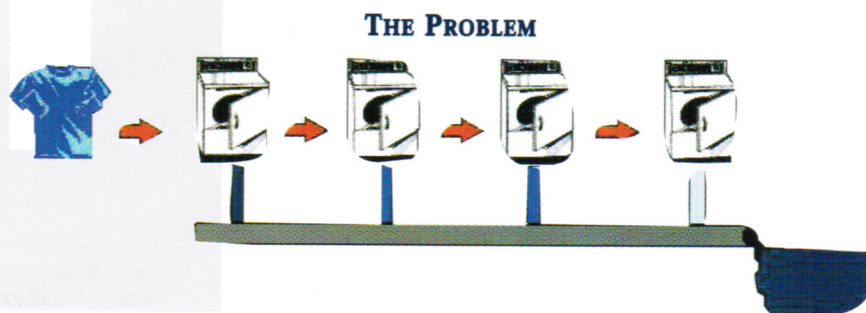
At the end of the dyeing process, yarns & fabrics needed to be washed several times before being dried and sent back to the client. Despite new machines, the washing step of Al-Bahra Textile Co. was still consuming 100 cubic meter of water per day that was sent directly to sewage (one third of the factory's daily

consumption). Finding a solution to this phase of the process was essential. By installing a collector tank and with some piping, the nearly clean water after the fourth bath could easily be reused as incoming water for the first bath.

APPLICATION OF THE 'GOOD HOUSEKEEPING' GUIDE

Reusing rinse water is one of the principles of Good Housekeeping. By asking the right questions the Guide taught the Maintenance Manager that solving a problem at source contributes in a cheap and easy way to the global environment solution for the factory.

ACTION TAKEN WITHIN THE COMPANY



ECONOMIC RESULTS

Investment cost	16'000 US\$
Annual savings	20'000 US\$
Payback	10 months

ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

By using big quantities of water as solvent the textile industry is highly polluting the environment and aggravates water shortage. Recycling rinse water helps to lower the water consumption and hence avoids polluting the environment.

LESSONS LEARNED

In a country where textile is a centuries old tradition, companies are strongly facing the challenge of globalisation. Environment management is one of the answers to remain competitive. By recommending simple solutions to one stage of the process, Good Housekeeping is the first important step to environment management with visible results and quick return on investment.

COMPANY

Al-Bahra Textile Co., Damascus, Syria; textile sector, a dyeing & finishing company, 150 employees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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WHO IS SBA ?

SBA, Sustainable Business Associates, is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that is working to engage industrialists in 'eco-efficiency' with the aim of minimising environmental impact and improving business productivity. To pursue this aim, SBA has initiated the DELTA Programme to sensitise industrialists to new business risks and opportunities, and to provide them with the management tools and training to move towards sustainable development.

WHAT IS DELTA?

DELTA stands for Developing Environmental Leadership Towards Action.

Chapter 30 of Agenda 21 (an outcome of the 1992 United Nations 'Earth Summit') indicates that business & industry have a critical role to play in achieving sustainable development goals. After an initial awareness-raising phase, the DELTA Programme focused on structuring industrialists in 'business & environment' networks (DELTA Networks) in 10 countries of the Mashrek & Maghreb. These Networks are composed of key industrialists interested in taking a proactive, leadership role on environmental issues. The DELTA Networks are practical, working structures for industrialists to obtain information & contacts, exchange experiences, develop environmental

know-how, and gain access to practical management tools that can offer 'win-win' options based on eco-efficiency.

SUPPORT TO DELTA

 The DELTA programme is supported by the European Commission (LIFE), the Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation and other international organisations.

WHERE ARE THE DELTA NETWORKS?

DELTA Networks are operating in: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, and Tunisia.