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Dry Ice Blasting Cleans Without Abrasives

Dry ice blasting has always been a great way to clean equipment gently, particularly electrical wiring or other water-sensitive materials. Dry ice works without chemicals or water, similar to media blasting without abrasives.

When dry ice particles hit, it's not just their impact that does the cleaning. As the particles go from solid to gas, they release energy, like microscopic explosions. As a result, they can remove gunk, oil and soot without removing paint that's strongly bonded to the surface. However, loose bits of paint, rust and mold

will be removed.

"It's easier to list the things you can't use a dry ice blaster for than it is things you can," says Jesus Anaya, Car Supplies Warehouse. "For example, you can't blast electrical tape or insulation foam. You want to avoid that."

Dry ice systems consist of a hopper for the solid CO₂ pellets, a compressed air supply and the hose and nozzle to direct the flow. They also include a control unit to adjust pellet feed rate, blasting pressure and nozzle settings for precise, effective cleaning.

Until recently, dry ice systems were

extremely expensive. Several dry ice blasters are now available for as little as a tenth or less the price of traditional systems.

"Dry ice blasting was very inaccessible at \$80,000 to \$100,000," says Anaya. "For general cleaning or automotive-type equipment, you don't need that. You may need only 10 to 15 percent of the capacity of the big systems. Instead, pay less, but only pay for what you need."

Car Supplies Warehouse distributes several dry ice blasting systems. Anaya notes that the right system depends on the individual and what they want to clean.

"You pay with time or money," he advises. "The bigger the system, the more you can do in the same amount of time. Also, whatever you spend on a blasting system, you can expect to spend the same on an air compressor to power it."

Anaya's favorite system is the IB740 from Karcher. It's sized for semi-truck-sized jobs. The blasting system is priced at \$24,500.

"The IB740 requires a 20 to 30-hp air compressor," says Anaya. "The combination ends up being around \$50,000."

Dry Ice Energy (DIE) is a lower-cost dry ice blasting alternative. DIE is known for inventing compact, easy-to-use machines.

The DIE Champ product line runs from the Basic at \$4,950 to the Turbo Pro (nicknamed The Beast) at \$12,500. They require no electricity, simply running off the flow of compressed air.

The Basic weighs only 33 lbs. and can be operated with a compressor as low as 8.8 cfm

and up to 28 cfm. Operating pressure varies from 14.5 psi to 88 psi.

The Beast weighs about 50 lbs. The company recommends a 70 to 80-cfm compressor, which can be run with a pressure of up to 200 psi if needed.

"The Beast will do 70% to 89% of what the Karcher will do," says Anaya. "However, while The Beast is only \$12,500, the compressor will cost around \$20,000."

Anaya notes that DIE's midrange blaster is the Vario. It weighs about 28 1/2 lbs. and is priced at about \$9,000. It requires a compressor with an output from 10.5 cfm to 56.5 cfm.

"It's our most popular DIE model, is super portable, and it's insane that it cleans as well as it does," says Anaya. "When we first looked at it, we used it to clean wheel wells, rubber parts, the engine base and interior stuff on a car, even the pores on audio speakers. We started bringing things in to try, and we cleaned everything from a dining room table to watches and the tools in our warehouse."

The one negative to dry ice blasters is the availability of dry ice capsules. Urban areas like Chicago, where Anaya is based, have multiple suppliers. Prices range from 65¢ to \$1 per lb., often involving minimum orders and a storage bin.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Car Supplies Warehouse, 1229 Naperville Dr., Romeoville, Ill. 60446 (ph 815-255-9846; support@carsupplieswarehouse.com; www.carsupplieswarehouse.com).

HempWood is 95% plant-based, making it an eco-friendly, healthy and self-sustaining U.S.-made product," Wilson says.



HempWood® Flooring Made To Last

Hardwood floors no longer need to be sourced from wood, which takes decades to grow. Engineered flooring made by HempWood® is made from hemp stalks that only take months to grow, dry and compress into rectangular 6-ft. logs. HempWood lumber is 20% harder than hickory, and with soy-based adhesives, it's healthier for people and the environment," says Greg Wilson, founder of HempWood.

He's been on the ground floor of developing hemp-based products since the 2014 farm bill allowed university hemp research. With experience manufacturing bamboo flooring overseas, Wilson moved to Kentucky, near Murray State University, the first place in the U.S. to grow hemp for research.

"The soil, weather and climate are good for growing hemp," Wilson says, and it's a good replacement for land that once grew

tobacco. Hemp has become a rotational crop for 19 area farmers who grow between 5 and 80 acres each year.

The 8 to 14-ft. long, woody-core stalks are harvested at about four months and dried like hay to less than 15% moisture content. Foreign material (such as pigweed) is removed, and the hemp dries within a few hours in former tobacco barns equipped with radiators fueled by waste hemp.

Soy adhesive is added to the hemp, which is then pressed and baked into 6 by 6-in. blocks with a Janka Hardness rating of 2,200 lbf.

"It's hard, stable and has a Class 1 fire rating," Wilson says. "For flooring, HempWood is glued to a 1/2-in. plywood backer so that it won't buckle like solid wood flooring. We're building 100-year floors."

Wilson adds that by avoiding VOCs and using PureBond® hardwood tongue-and-groove plywood ethically sourced in West Virginia, HempWood is 95% plant-based, making it an eco-friendly, healthy and self-sustaining U.S.-made product.

The cost is comparable to other hardwood floors, and HempWood can be stained and finished similarly to hardwoods. Flooring

accounts for about 85% of the company's sales, but it also makes tables, cabinets, doors and HempWood lumber.

The company won the "2024 Coolest Thing Made in Kentucky" award, and HempWood's flooring has been installed in commercial and government buildings, especially universities and schools.

HempWood is planning sites in Pennsylvania and Oregon and has made European licensing agreements.

"Using natural materials is the right thing to do," Wilson says. "It's getting away from plastics, and natural material improves air quality. It's the way things are supposed to be, just like knowing where your food is grown. Having transparency in the supply chain is important to us."

HempWood products are available at more than 100 retail locations, and the company sells directly from its Murray, Ky., facilities.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, HempWood, 301 Rockwood Rd., Murray, Ky. 42071 (ph 888-338-1235; sales@hempwood.com; www.hempwood.com).

Round Bale Hauler Works Gently And Quickly

The Riteway Bale Cart is designed for farmers to easily move large numbers of bales without twine or net wrap damage.

The Bale Cart picks and hauls up to 10 round bales from 48 to 72 in. in diameter, operating at a speed of over 4 mph. It requires a minimum of 100 hp and a hydraulic system to raise and lower the arms and operate the rear gate, which can also be pinned.

"Our machine is built to last, with many purchased to rent out to neighbors," says Riteway Marketing Manager Garth Massie. "Their unique curved hoop system to hold the bales is designed to be extra gentle and eliminate damage."

Each chamber is equipped with floating springs, which make them virtually weightless as they contact the ground.

While the units are standard in features and capabilities, the picking system is adjustable to fit the different-sized round bales. The cart

holds eight 72-in., 10 60-in., or 12 48-in. bales at a transport width of 12 ft., 5 in.

The tires run on walking axles, ideal for rougher fields. Unloading is easy—the bales are placed on the ground, the rear gate is opened, and the unit is pulled straight through the rows.

Massie explains that to load the cart, the operator slows down when approaching the new bale, drops the hoop system, moves forward, lifts and squeezes the bales, and proceeds.

"It's advisable to pick one side and then the other for balance," he says. "Some of our producers using the machine have gathered and set up to 1,000 bales in a day."

The Bale Cart is manufactured in Saskatchewan and available throughout Riteway's extensive North American dealer network. Massie recommends interested customers check with their nearest dealer for



Each chamber is equipped with floating springs, which make them virtually weightless as they contact the ground.

pricing and availability.

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