



Minimize Scum in Rinse Waters

Written by Robin Tiede, Aquapure Product Manager at Hubbard-Hall

Summer time brings heat. Production slowdowns may occur due to annual maintenance shutdowns or seasonal production changes. Rinse waters sometimes stagnate allowing bacteria to grow in otherwise typically clean rinse water. This bacteria growth can bring along malodors and solids sticking to parts. Additives and phosphates in cleaners can feed the bacteria through carryover to the rinses and with the right conditions help it to flourish. Growing bacteria can turn the rinse water acidic if not kept clean from solids that are left unfiltered or unchecked in the rinses. Sludge piles on the bottom of rinse tanks can also entrap air and cause bacteria growth.

Rinse waters can stay cleaner with lower bacteria by making sure carry over from process chemistry is kept to a minimum with increased rack or basket hang time and rinsing over process tanks. Flow rate and turnover in rinse waters should be in accordance with the carryover from the process tanks. Oil should be skimmed off or forced over a weir to a coalesce or removed through the use of a belt skimmer

If single rinses are utilized for multiple processes carry over chemistry may react to form solids that will entrain air leading to bacteria growth. Increased oxygen in the rinses can help prevent the formation of odorous bacteria. This can be done by sparging air into the rinse tanks, or by having a higher flow rate. An addition of bleach to the rinse tank every so often during hot weather or the use of our Aquapure™ Augmentation Pucks will eliminate or bacteria growth. These Augmentation pucks sit at the bottom of the tank and add oxygen constantly without the worry of maintenance. They are available in 1 lb sleeves of 3-pucks/ lb. Easy to use, no labor involved other than simply tossing them in the tank.

So, head off the odors and bacteria with these tips before it becomes a problem. For more information contact us at info@hubbardhall.com