

How Texas Tissue Takes on Combustible Dust: Hands-Free Clean Up

Paper converting facilities are no stranger to the struggles associated with fugitive dust. But one Texas facility is taking control of its combustible dust compliance and safety by using SonicAire fans.

Texas Tissue Converting makes paper and tissue products, including bath tissue, hand towels, and paper towels. One of the biggest challenges in paper manufacturing is the dust created during production. So it only makes sense that they would put effort into finding a solution to control their dust buildup.



Not All Fans Are Dust Control Fans

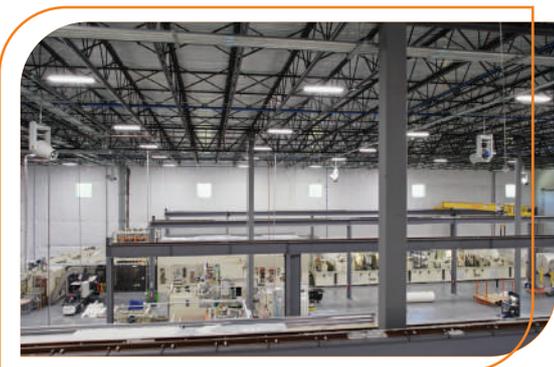
According to Angelo DeGemmis, the Technical Director of Texas Tissue, keeping their environment safe was a top priority. Because of the concern for their facility's safety, Texas Tissue attempted several times to mitigate dust buildup. First, they started with other dust control fans. Unfortunately, as they later discovered, those fans were noisy, mostly ineffective, and didn't allow proper airflow. They weren't designed to prevent dust buildup and left dust in several hiding spots around the machines and overhead.

"In the beginning, we were trying to manage our dust problem with some other kind of overhead fan that was very noisy and was not giving me the correct flow. It wasn't powerful and was always leaving dust in many hiding spots around the machines." -Angelo DeGemmis, Technical Director

The first brand of fans they tried left a lot of dust falling from the rafters and onto the machinery and, worst of all, trickling back onto the product. Just like before they bought the fans, they continued to have to rework the material, clean it off, or throw it away, entirely. The fans that were supposed to create a safer environment cost them a lot in time and revenue.

Even worse than the dust blowdown caused by the first fans, Texas Tissue employees still saw dust buildup. They were constantly aware of the combustion risk overhead. As Angelo said, **"Just a little spark can cause a big problem."** So Texas Tissue continued their search for the best method of dust management.

Manually Cleaning Costs Too Much Time and Money



They also tried a more hands-on approach to manage their dust problem. According to Brandon Felan, Production Manager at Texas Tissue Converting, when they wanted to clean or "release some of that debris, [from the machines, they] had to bring in a scissor lift, shut down the plant for a day or so, and blow down. Blowdown, wait a day, come back [and] clean it."

SonicAire Inc.
3831 Kimwell Drive
Winston-Salem, NC
27103-6707 USA

(336) 712-2437
moreinfo@sonicaire.com
www.sonicaire.com


SonicAire®

During this cleanup, the product could get contaminated, costing the company even more in profit. This common consequence of “blowing down” is part of why the process of removing dust buildup from the ceiling areas is always a complicated matter. Other fans weren’t up to managing fugitive dust and consequently, Texas Tissue lost a lot more product than they should have.

The costs associated with this practice were astronomical. They quickly determined that, while this method may be effective at keeping the facility safe from combustible dust, it wasn’t financially viable in the long run.

“You have to pay for labor, pay for opportunity costs associated with that downtime, [and] all the staffing.”
- Brandon Felan

Third Time’s a Charm

When Texas Tissue determined that their first two dust management strategies weren’t working, they decided to find a solution that would automate their housekeeping—eliminating those costly blowdowns while also keeping them safe and within OSHA requirements for combustible dust.

They installed a SonicAire fan and the difference from the other dust control fans they used before is starkly apparent. The air quality in the facility is vastly improved, and employees see far less dust accumulation.

“Now, with the fans, we’re able to continuously mitigate the dust accumulation. And because of their performance, we no longer have to hire a third party.”

Maro Roy, Texas Tissue Quality Engineer

Room for Growth

SonicAire engineers are trained to place the fans in your facility to maximize coverage over your dust-making processes while keeping obstructions and other obstacles in mind. They can design a full-coverage system for your facility - but that doesn’t mean you have to do all-or-nothing.

If you’re not ready for full coverage all at once, you can still see the benefits of automated dust control. We can design a multi-phase solution by starting where fans are most needed. Then, as the budget becomes available, you can expand to other lines or plants in your company. The proof is in the pudding, as they say, and we’re confident that our fans will make a tremendous difference in your facility, just as they did with Texas Tissue.

Guaranteed Compliance

If our products don’t solve your overhead dust problems, we’ll provide a full refund on the fans or your fine, whichever is less. *

*See [SonicAire.com/Compliance-Guarantee](https://www.sonicaire.com/Compliance-Guarantee) for full details and terms.



Watch the Video Case Study

SonicAire Inc.
3831 Kimwell Drive
Winston-Salem, NC
27103-6707 USA

(336) 712-2437
moreinfo@sonicaire.com
www.sonicaire.com

