

How HLS Linen Optimized Efficiency by Automating Fugitive Lint Management

Understanding the Risk of Overhead Lint Buildup

Lint is a daily concern for a facility that provides services for 50 million pounds of linen each year. HLS Linen's CEO, Rocco Romeo, recognized the increased risk that highly flammable lint posed to his facility and sought to mitigate it in the most efficient way possible.

After over 50 years in business, HLS Linen Services has built a name for itself by providing linen and laundry services to Ontario's health care and long-term care facilities.

HLS Linen makes every effort to provide hygienically clean textile products for their customers - so their struggle with the fugitive lint created during their production is crucial. They ensure their linen is completely clean and free of debris, including fugitive lint. Doing so is especially important for HLS Linen, as the material is at a high risk of spreading pathogens.



For more on the connection between lint buildup and pathogen spreading in healthcare, check out [Lint and Pathogens: How to Protect Patients and Staff with Overhead Lint Control.](#)

Automation Maximizes Efficiency



For HLS Linen, like many factories, labor is the single highest operating cost. Therefore, they focus on optimizing efficiencies and are constantly looking for ways to save on labor. They've incorporated automation everywhere possible in their facilities, leading them to seek alternatives to manually controlling the lint.

Romeo says they wanted a system in place that kept them from worrying every day about whether or not the plant was vulnerable to the hazards of lint.

» The cleaning of lint is probably one of the biggest challenges for any laundry operator. »

- Rocco Romeo, CEO

Because lint is frequently the cause of laundry facility fires, HLS Linen felt the need to proactively mitigate the risk that lint poses.

When opening the Ottawa plant in 2007, they immediately researched methods for lint control and decided SonicAire fans were their best option.

Avoiding Labor-Intensive Costs

HLS Linen recognized the challenge lint buildup created as it accumulated in specific areas of the plant, particularly on top of the equipment and in the rafters. While floors are an easy cleanup, the harder-to-reach areas posed a challenge. Cleaning these areas is typically a labor-intensive process that, Romeo says, is often overlooked. If a company chooses to handle the lint removal in-house, the maintenance department must work to incorporate this housekeeping effort while managing other key priorities. Because this task generates no revenue, emphasis isn't typically placed on it, making it easy to postpone.



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»» When you're dealing with a hazard, it needs to be habitual, it needs to be done daily, and it needs to be part of your core process. »»

- Rocco Romeo, CEO

SonicAire fans automate the fugitive lint housekeeping process. This ensures that no employees have to take on the cleanup as an additional duty. The lint is forced down onto the ground before it accumulates on equipment or machines and is easily swept up as part of the plant's daily operations. Using the fan system means no schedule changes, no additional duties are required, and no shutdowns occur to conduct a manual cleaning.

HLS Linen's Ottawa plant has roughly 40 SonicAire fans, while the Toronto facility has 10. SonicAire's team of specialized engineers reviewed the layouts of the facility and created a customized plan to ensure the installed fans are optimized for the plant. With the right fans in the right places, HLS has kept its facilities clean and prevented lint from building up in the rafters.



SonicAire Fans Make Lint Management Effortless

SonicAire fans have allowed HLS Linen to accomplish each of those objectives and given the employees a sense of pride in their facility. Anyone who walks through the facility can look into the rafters and see the difference SonicAire makes. When potential customers come into the facility, they, too, make a note of the cleanliness of the facility. That's a significant boost to customers' confidence in them and a bonus that Romeo acknowledges is advantageous.

»» I truly am a big believer in SonicAire. Highly recommend them. And I'm very grateful to have their product in our plant assisting us every day. »»

- Rocco Romeo, CEO

If your facility is struggling to maintain compliance with lint buildup, [contact us](#) to see how a custom-designed SonicAire dust control system can help.

Guaranteed Compliance



If you're concerned that your facility doesn't measure up on lint safety and compliance, SonicAire is so confident in our product that we guarantee it will no longer be a concern.

As long as SonicAire fans are correctly installed and maintained according to our engineers' layout/engineering recommendations, they will eliminate the need for housekeeping in hard-to-reach overhead spaces.

And if they don't, we'll provide a full refund on the cost of fans or reimburse the cost of any imposed fine, whichever is less.*

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



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