Olathe Manufacturing Plant

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SPX

SPX Cooling Technologies
Over the years, SPX Cooling Technologies, Inc., has built a reputation as one of the most experienced cooling tower manufacturers in North America. For over 85 years, the product brands of SPX have set the standard for excellence in performance and durability.

In October 1966, a plastics plant for The Marley Cooling Tower Company was opened in Olathe, Kansas. In its initial configuration, it was designed to only produce the rapidly growing number of plastic components used in Marley towers. Almost three years later, in March of 1969, a machining plant was opened alongside the plastics plant.

Today, with 250,000 square feet of space across 20 acres of land, the SPX factory operates three shifts to continually meet customer demand. The current production capabilities include evaporative water cooling towers, fluid coolers, structural stainless steel and carbon steel welding and PVC fill, packs and extruded bars. The factory also holds numerous certifications including environmental and health and safety.

From a new, state-of-the-art Geareducer® rebuild and repair station to investments in new fiberglass mixer technology and tooling to a well thought-out inventory process, the SPX factory in Olathe, KS is committed to performance, durability and availability every day.
GEAREDUCER® REPAIR AND REBUILD

- A significant investment has been made to develop a state-of-the-art rebuild and repair station to bring worn gearboxes back to OEM performance levels.
- Factory-trained technicians with 20 years of combined experience can repair existing gearboxes or rebuild a gearbox at the SPX factory in Olathe, KS.
- Validation testing, inspection reports and a dyno-test under full load are part of the quality service offered.
- The factory dyno-test under full load ensures the rebuilt or repaired gearbox has been re-assembled properly and is capable of running at the rated torque and horsepower.

THERMOFORMING AND PACKMAKING

- With the only 5 foot machine in the industry, the thermoformer operates 24-hours a day (cycling every 7.3 seconds) to guarantee maximum efficiency and output.
- The sophisticated equipment allows for fill to be offered in different thicknesses depending on the application. A variety of shipping methods are available to meet all project requirements.
- In-house industry thermoforming technicians oversee the SPX factory thermoforming operation, producing fill for North America, South America, Europe and parts of Asia. The capabilities include pre-forming, vacuum forming and blow forming.
- The LMC packmaker produces packs for wet towers in the Midwest and South, as well as all parts orders in the U.S. Two packmakers in the SPX facility in York, PA fill orders for wet towers in the East and Northeast.
- The SPX factory recycles 100% of the scrap made during the fill manufacturing process.

QUALITY CONTROL

- Orders are picked and packed in the tower and crates using Pack Paperwork to help verify all items are accounted for. Units crated are sequentially numbered and noted on the loading sheet to ensure they are loaded on the truck with the towers.
- A quality check is done prior to shipment to ensure all parts are shipped with the tower and eliminate the need for supplemental shipments.
- To ensure customer satisfaction and minimize the possibility of damage, all field-installed parts are shipped in a crate and smaller parts are shipped in secure waterproof tubs.
- ISO 9001-2008 certified.
As a leading cooling tower manufacturer, SPX designs and produces all critical cooling tower components. The Olathe Factory is the hub of performance, efficiency and quality.
Durability

**SHEET METAL**
- Because 99% of the sheet metal is made at the SPX factory, towers can be made to order with a combination of materials. This allows customers to tailor their order to meet specific water and environmental needs.
- The addition of one new punch press has generated increased throughput, inventory reduction and shorter lead times.

**STEEL / WELD SHOP**
- Stainless steel, HMG (heavy mill galvanized) and black steel is processed at the factory in sheet and structural shapes.
- The addition of a torque tube weld fixture and laser machine increase capacity to meet a growing demand.
- A fully programmable structural beam fabrication line eliminates the time consuming process of manually laying out hole locations. The SPX factory can process I-beam, channel and angle beams.
- The shop produces all fabricated steel for parts and wet towers, as well as option parts for the assembly line.

**FIBERGLASS GRIDS / EXTRUSION**
- The SPX factory has the ability to manufacture fill system design solutions for all cooling tower applications, including dirty water and harsh environmental conditions.
- The internal quality control is specific to the fill system design ensuring the product will perform as intended and meet customer needs.
- Investments in new mixer technology, tooling and the addition of a composite DS cell have lead to increased capacity and reduced lead times for customers.
- A variety of bar shapes and grid configurations are produced on extruders at a high rate of speed to meet customer demand with reduced lead times.
INVENTORY

• A well thought-out process change at the SPX factory has lead to a significant reduction in inventory.

• Parts are picked two days before the build of a tower to ensure all of the right components are available. Parts are then separated by tower section in the order the tower is assembled.

ASSEMBLY

• A recent change in the flow of the assembly line has added capacity, flexibility and increased the production of towers per day.

• All stainless steel basins are welded to ensure a leak free basin.

• Weld “burns” are removed from the surface of the tower to provide a clean cosmetic appearance.

• During the assembly process, leak testing is done on all stainless steel basins and 1 of every 10 galvanized basins.

• Towers flow down the assembly line on air bearings to provide maximum flexibility for the assembly process.

• All fans are statically balanced prior to installation in the tower.

• Tailor made towers are an advantage to the customer. For example, a customer can order a stainless steel cold-water basin that will extend the useful life of the product without investing in an entire stainless steel tower.