



GREG'S PORTACOOOL STORY

Greg Olson is the Heavy Machine Shop Supervisor at Washington Iron Works located in Sherman, Texas. As a supervisor of a 12 man crew working on everything from crankshaft services to engine overhauls for oil and gas customers, he knows attention to detail is important. However, when Texas temps are pushing 90 degrees in the shade and the sun is beating down on the metal shop, concentrating on details can be tough.

Our heavy machine shop is one of Sherman, Texas' oldest buildings, which was built in the late 1800s. It is a massive metal building without much insulation and in the summer, it cooks. Getting air conditioning installed wouldn't be too practical given how open it is, the height of the ceiling and how often the outside doors to the shop must be opened. Knowing A/C wasn't an option, we tried shop fans. They blew a decent amount of air, but didn't really cut it because they just blew hot air around.

I had seen evaporative coolers but I wasn't sure my bosses would go for it because they use water and any humidity could rust our key components. Corrosion in the shop can't be tolerated. Since you can use evaporative coolers with the shop doors open, I started telling management we should give it a try. To say they were hesitant is an understatement. Water equaled rust to them - period.

At the time though, the heat was unbearable and made it harder for my guys to stay focused and productive - not to mention safe - with sweat and exhaustion from the hot conditions.

I finally suggested that we ask a local distributor to bring one of the new Portacool Jetstreams™ up to the shop, show us how to work it and let us test it out. To our amazement, we found we absolutely could get cold air in the shop from the Portacool evaporative cooler without putting rust-building humidity out. The guys that demoed the product helped us understand that Portacool evaporative coolers come with a water control valve that can be used to turn-down the amount of water running over the evaporative media in the back of the cooler. Bingo! That was the trick to making sure we didn't have any rust issues.

It took some trial and error with the evaporative cooler. We used it the first couple of days and realized we had too much water running, so we kept adjusting the water flow until we found the exact setting that worked for our shop. It kept us cool and we were not seeing any rust on our equipment.

We're happy and our machinery is intact and rust free. We're sold on the cooling power.

- Greg Olson, Heavy Machine Shop Supervisor

And, again we've had no issues with rust or corrosion of any kind. In fact, one of the Jetstream evaporative coolers points directly at our metal assembly table and has caused no rust and another one runs right next to the ways for one of our lathes and has caused no rust there as well. So, we're happy and our machinery is intact and rust free.

We're sold on the cooling power. It's made a huge difference in keeping a comfortable work environment.



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