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Technical Document #45

Still Residues

This phenomenon is nearly always related to a lack of circulation over the pre-coated spin filter, either for a single long period of time (perhaps the filter, with clay on it, was not used at all for 10 or more days), or an accumulation of stop-and-start periods where the filter is unused for most of the week, over a period of many weeks. For example, you might have production two days a week, Monday and Thursday. If the clay is replaced on Thursday after the last load comes out, maybe at 10 AM, then the clay sits on the filter for most of Thursday, all of Friday, and the full weekend before circulating again on Monday AM. The longer the filter sits with GreenEarth silicone in it, and the fluid is not circulating in the machine and from tank to tank, the more likely the residues will not cook down as expected. The good news is, if the still is generally cooking down completely but the residues are more damp than usual, the issue will correct itself as business picks back up and you return to normal working schedules.

If the issue is more pronounced and you are losing a lot of GreenEarth silicone in the residue, more direct action may need to be taken. The rule of thumb, in all situations, should be to minimize the amount of time that the filter is left idle with no circulation. This is one of the reasons that we recommend separating the spin/drop/pre-coat process into two stages.

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
16	
17	
18	MAINT: SEPARATOR CLEANING (1X WEEK)
19	MAINT: ADD ACTIVATED CLAY (TK 2)
20	MAINT: SPIN/DROP FILTER (TK1)

Here we see Program 20 and 19 as separate maintenance functions

The first stage (often Program 20) will spin the discs and drain the old clay into the still or decanter, and then refill the filter using only GreenEarth from the button trap and a base tank. The second stage (usually Program 19) is where you add the Activated Clay to the wheel, close the door, and pre-coat the discs. Each stage takes about 15 minutes. The advantage to this system is that you can spin the discs and drain the filter on the last day of production, then leave the machine idle for 3 to 4 days (or whatever your current schedule demands), and then add the

clay the morning that you begin work again. It doesn't matter which day you drop the filter, as long as it is just prior to your longest period of no cleaning for the week. This method will minimize wet residues no matter how you run the machine.

A small number of you have dry cleaning machines with two spin disc filters. This requires special consideration during slow periods, as most Affiliates do not have enough work during the business interruption of the last couple of months to justify the use of two filters and the extra maintenance required to keep them working perfectly. In most cases, we recommend that Affiliates deactivate one filter completely, running all cleaning through just one filter and then change the clay twice as often if required (based on filter pressure and color of the GreenEarth silicone).

Incomplete distillation can also be the result of one or more of these factors:

- Insufficient steam pressure or bad steam trap (on a new machine, steam should be set to 40 PSI and increased to no higher than 52 PSI if required)
- A weak vacuum pump or a vacuum leak such as a still door gasket in need of replacement
- Not distilling immediately after dropping the filter (running program 20). Do not let the drainage sit in the still until a later time to cook.
- Dry cleaning machine operator is not actually doing the maintenance on time as you (the Owner or Manager) have prescribed
- Filter is not draining completely into the still in the time given in the program, this can happen if the pipe is clogged above the "shower head" in the still.
- Incorrect machine programming
- A waxy buildup on the still floor, usually caused by not raking completely down to the metal, that will eventually insulate the heat away from the residues (this can be removed fairly easily, please contact us if the bottom of the still is not shiny after raking it).
- Incorrect dosage of Activated Clay
- A still that suffers from one of the above problems and the operator turns off the still in frustration, and tries to cook again later, repeatedly
- A solvent that is not 100% Pure GreenEarth D5 Silicone Fluid has been added to the machine (a blend of either linear or other cyclic siloxanes).
- Recall that, even in the best of times, the Activated Clay **MUST** be changed **NO LESS** than once per week under any and all circumstances

If you are just now realizing that your machine has been sitting idle for a long time with clay on the filter, do not turn on the machine until you have called us to discuss next steps to minimize distillation issues.

If you need assistance deactivating a filter, manually spinning and dropping a filter, or modifying your programs, we are able to assist you with this over the phone or video call. Please email us at technical@greenearthcleaning.com or call us at 877-926-0895 to schedule a time to review the maintenance programs. If emailing us, please send us a photo of the computer panel showing all of the buttons on your machine so we can pull up the correct charts.