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PROJECT REPORT
Vehicle Maintenance Facility
US Postal Service
Raleigh, NC
October 10, 1997

PORTA GATOR
SPILL CONTROL SYSTEM

The VMF uses a reusable absorbent to pick up incidental spills, including oil/grease and antifreeze in the shop. In order to keep the used product separate from the new material, the used product was accumulated in poly barrels. However, the barrels had no mechanism for sifting through the used material and removing trash and debris from the absorbent. Consequently, the VMF did not realize the full benefit of the absorbent as the product with residual absorbency was discarded with the trash and debris picked up with the absorbent.

GOAL: Develop a method to remove the trash and debris collected with the used absorbent in order to reuse the absorbent, lowering both the product cost and the amount of used absorbent generated.

SOLUTION: Porta Gator, a portable container with an access door at its base to enhance the absorbent's distribution and possessing a sifting device designed to remove trash and debris from used absorbent.

APPLICATION:

June, 1997 Five Porta Gator units were purchased: four of the units were deployed in the main repair area, and one unit was deployed in the body shop/point booth area.

Sept. 30, 1997 The Manager reports that using the Porta Gator units has reduced his costs of absorbents by 66% - from \$2,400 annually to a projected \$800. The Porta Gator units were purchased at a cost of \$368 each, a total of \$1,840. The cost will be recovered in less than 14 months.

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