

Innovative Clemco Employees Improve Efficiency

IT'S FRIDAY 2 P.M., and the weekend begins in 30 minutes for the 50 or so Clemco welders, assemblers, part handlers, and other plant employees who are sitting in the front office's main conference room. But today, like every Friday for the past half-year, the manufacturing team meets to screen their latest 2 Second Lean videos.

In a nutshell, 2 Second Lean is a business philosophy that promotes efficiency. 2 Second Lean encourages all employees to share ideas that can shave wasted time from production, even if only by two seconds, and then video their ideas. On a typical Friday, the Clemco manufacturing team watches 6 to 12 of their coworkers' videos to see the time-saving ideas they've implemented.

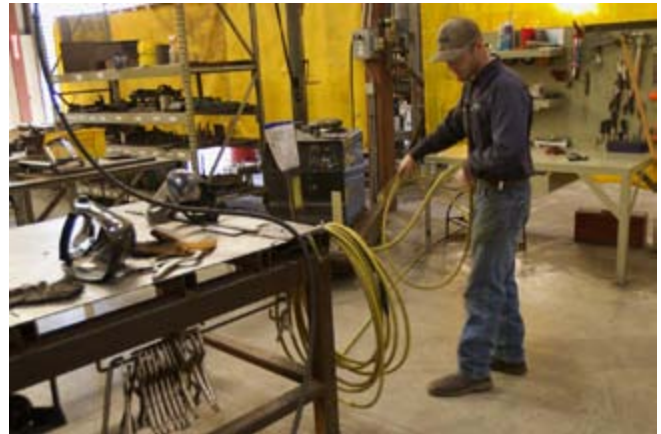
Employees have filmed more than 200 videos, most under a minute long, covering topics ranging from:

- Reorganizing work areas and shipping bays
- Redesigning work platforms used for reclaimer construction
- Modifying carts so parts don't fall out
- Altering shelving so pallets easily slide in and out
- Installing designated hooks for hammers, brooms, screwdrivers, hoses, and other tools so workspaces and the shop floor stay uncluttered
- A central location for consumables and welding wire
- Dozens of other ideas

"We encourage our associates to find ways to make their jobs easier and more productive," says Brad Gildehaus, welding supervisor. "We give them a half hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays to put their ideas into practice. They don't need approval from me to get to work on an idea, unless it involves a team. Then we meet on Friday to share what we've accomplished."

"Anything that causes our employees pain, we empower them to make their waste-reduction ideas a reality—and they are coming up with great ideas!" explains Robert O'Daniel, metal-fabrication supervisor. "We've been so successful that the Engineering and Customer Service Departments are now also running their own 2 Second Lean programs. We estimate that our employees' ideas are saving the plant 250 hours a week."

"That's like having six more employees on the floor each week," Brad adds. ●



Welder Jarrett Vandaveer shows how his invention keeps air hoses off the shop floor.



Part handler Danielle Stanley uses her clamp invention to easily measure the length of flex hose.



Welder Charlie Williams operates the platform he designed.