

# Cleaning prevents plant downtime

Using the wrong lubricant can cause conveyor chain bearings to resinify prematurely. In order to avert imminent plant downtime, a coating company affected by this problem availed of technical cleaning services for its conveyor system.

The case of M. Stöcker demonstrates the importance of using customized lubricants for the smooth operation of a conveyor chain. For a long time, the coating company used Synthesco chain oil (Klüber Lubrication) to lubricate its conveyor systems. For reasons of cost efficiency, the company changed this strategy in 2016 and used a more affordable alternative lubricant with an identical data sheet for two years. However, the new lubricant led to excessive resinification of the conveyor chain bearings within a short time. As a result, the availability of the conveyor system decreased dramatically. Finally, the plant was only working at up to 30 percent of its actual capacity, forcing the company to find an effective solution.

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The conveyor system with a cleaning rail. The inspection plate shows the recommended next date for cleaning.

## **Full system availability achieved**

The company chose to install the Brige B-Clean conveyor cleaning system. The cleaning service provider cleans conveyor systems actively and passively without biological or chemical cleaning agents. The B-Clean 4.0 cleans conveyor chains solely using the powers of water and air. Cleaning takes place on site and the conveyor chain remains installed for the duration of the cleaning. This means that plant downtimes, for example for removal and reassembly of a conveyor chain for external cleaning, are avoided. The manufacturer recommends that a technical cleaning of the conveyor chain using the Brige system be performed every 12 to 24 months. Following the cleaning of the conveyor chain, it is essential to relubricate the bearings and axles well and with the correct lubricant. This allows the conveyor chain to run smoothly for a long time. In this specific case, the deep cleaning of the conveyor system at M. Stöcker was carried out on a weekend and included the conveyor chain and the conveyor rails. In order to remove all residues from the conveyor chain, the bearings of which were coated in resin, the cleaning was performed using a water throughput of 30 liters per minute, at a pressure of up to 110 bar and a temperature of up to 60 °C, in accordance with occupational health and safety regulations. The company then relubricated the conveyor chain with the tried and tested Synthesco chain oil. Since then, the system has been running at full capacity and the company's multi-shift operation has continued working at highest performance levels. //

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