



Success Story: Action Floor Systems, Inc.

Northwest Wisconsin Manufacturing Outreach Center

www.actionfloors.com



Action Floor Systems Begins Lean Journey

Profile

Location: Mercer, Wisconsin
Headquarters: Mercer, Wisconsin
Years in Business: 18
No. of Employees: 100

Products: Sports-floor options in solid hard wood, synthetic polyurethane, and recycled rubber.

NWMOC Projects: Lean Certification Training, 5S Events, Value Stream Mapping



Electrical Storage Area before 5S Event

Situation

After experiencing a slight turndown in their business, Action Floor Systems wanted to remain competitive and become more efficient while reducing costs. They were working on a 1- to 5-year strategic plan when they “changed their mindset” from lean manufacturing to becoming a “lean enterprise.” Three employees were chosen to attend the NWMOC’s Lean Certification Program, where they embraced “lean thinking” and acquired a determination to “get out of our rut.” They learned to break down processes and look for ways to eliminate waste, beginning with their subfloor production process.

Project

As their excitement grew, those first three employees shared their knowledge with their co-workers. Then they enlisted additional employees to help them revamp their subfloor production process. Their first project was a huge success—they reduced production time from 3 man hours per unit to 1.5 man hours per unit. They also constructed a cart and rail system to ease handling of subflooring materials and reduce transportation time, saving an estimated \$7800/year in labor costs alone. They removed equipment that hadn’t been used in over a year and established a Red Tag area to facilitate reassignment/removal of unused items in a timelier manner. Management at Action Floor Systems was open and supportive to the changes, which are ongoing in many areas of the plant as they continue to become a Lean Enterprise.



Electrical Storage Area after 5S Event

“I would encourage anybody in manufacturing to contact the NWMOC. They talk the talk and walk the walk. They really know how to relate to those of us who take it right to the manufacturing production floor. You’re missing out if you don’t take advantage of the opportunity to work with these folks.” – Karl Anderson, Plant Manager, Action Floor Systems, LLC.

Results

- Increased productivity by 50%
- Increased floor space by 750 sq. ft.
- Reduced in-house consumables
- Reduced transportation and storage time
- Saved \$7800/year in labor costs
- Created a more flexible work area