

FlexoMate

ANILOX ROLL CLEANING SYSTEMS



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FlexoMate Introduction

Flexo printers know that their inks are difficult if not impossible to remove once they've dried. If the cells are not completely cleaned the volume becomes less, creating random patterns across the web. Conventional cleaning methods take a lot of time and may damage the roll and/or the (workers) environment. All resulting in inefficiency and high costs.

The FlexoMate cleaning systems of Gritco Equipment are based on the use of specially formulated dry sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) called Armex. By directing this fine powder onto the roll with compressed air, every cell is being in-depth cleaned.

This system is strong enough to quickly remove any kind of contamination and yet gentle enough not to damage your rolls! Your anilox roll becomes as new in less time and against less costs than ever before!



In-depth cleaning of:

- Laser engraved ceramic rolls
- Engraved chrome rolls
- Gravure printing rolls
- Squeeze, guide and glue rolls

Removal of:

- Solvent based inks
- Water based inks
- UV inks
- Coatings

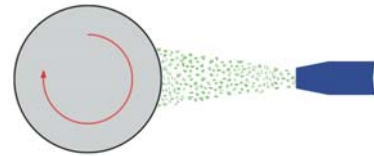
FlexoMate systems... anilox roll cleaning finally made easy

FlexoMate Method

The FlexoMate systems are designed for the in-depth cleaning of laser engraved ceramic anilox rolls. Depending on conditions and type also engraved chrome rolls, gravure rolls, glue rolls, squeeze rolls and guide rolls can be cleaned.

The systems use dry specially formulated sodium bicarbonate called Armex. Delivered under pressure using compressed air, the Armex crystal physically removes the ink from the substrate. Because of its softness and friability, the crystal disintegrates on impact without damage to or distortion of the substrate.

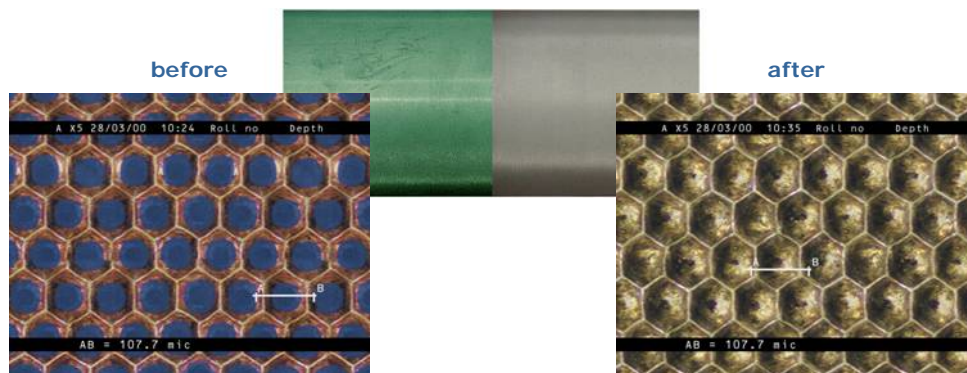
All used media and contamination is being sucked out of the cabinet or away from the roll and separated from the air stream. The only 'waste' after cleaning is the used Armex and ink residue which are collected in a plastic bag.



The systems are completely dust free so they can be placed everywhere at the facility. All systems are completely automatic which means almost no man hours for the actual cleaning.

Key benefits

- fast automatic operation
- thorough, in-depth cleaning
- no risk to roll
- easy to operate
- no use of chemicals and water
- saves costs on water consumption and environmental charges



FlexoMate Systems

The FlexoMate systems can be divided in two groups:

- The off-press systems when the roll is taken out of the machine.
- The in-press system when the roll remains inside the printing machine.

All FlexoMate systems are completely automatic and therefore take almost no man hours for the actual cleaning. The systems are easy to install and can be placed everywhere at the facility.

Both systems use the renowned MicroStrip machine for a very accurate, constant and gradual flow of the Armex cleaning media. This MicroStrip machine directs the Armex onto the roll by means of the direct pressure blast method. Working pressures can be set between 0,3 and 4 bar making it suitable for a wide range of rolls.

Off-Press system

With the off-press systems the anilox roll is placed inside a cabinet. The nozzle inside the cabinet makes a set number of passes and cleans the roll. Various roll lengths and sizes are possible due to adjustable roll supports, rotating speed and nozzle transfer distance and speed.



In-Press system

With the in-press system a traversing support is mounted to the printing machine. On this support a brush-head is situated in which the nozzle is placed. This brush-head is gently pressed against the anilox roll. The brush-head makes a set number of passes at a set traversing speed.



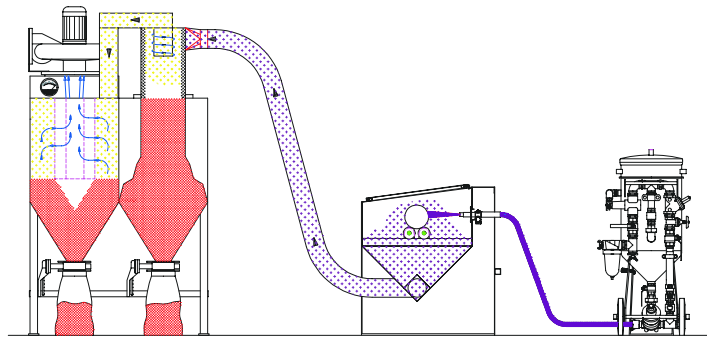
All used media and contamination is being sucked out of the cabinet or away from the roll by the ventilator or vacuum source and separated from the air stream by the pre-separator cyclone and filter unit. The cyclone separates the 'heavy' particles being spent media from the air stream. This is collected in a plastic bag.

The finest dust is separated by a filter cartridge which is cleaned automatically during the process. This dust is also collected in a plastic bag.

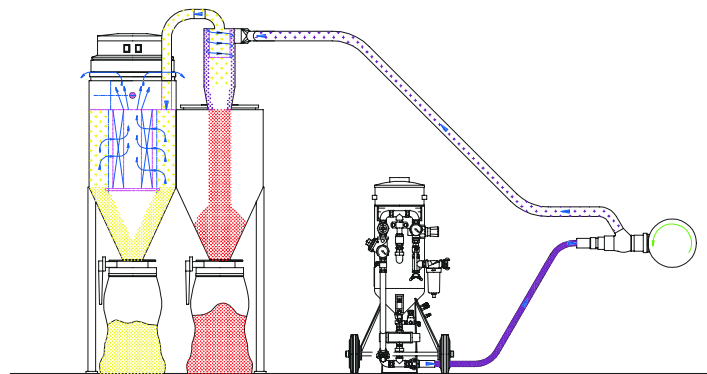
The spent media and dust is the only residue left after cleaning and can after be disposed without any problems.

Afterwards the roll has to be rinsed with some (warm) water. Because Armex is 100% water soluble there is absolutely no residue left on the roll!

Concept Off-Press



Concept In-Press



GloveBox system

As an addition a GloveBox can be delivered to manually clean other parts of the press.



FlexoMate References

The innovative FlexoMate systems have found their way to numerous printing companies. Below are some companies/groups listed. Please contact us for a full reference list.

- Avery Dennison
- Spear
- Kappa
- BPI Packaging
- Amcor Flexibles
- Frantschach
- Renolit
- Benecke-Kaliko
- SCA Packaging



Gritco Equipment BV is member of the Flexographic Technical Association 'EFTA Benelux'.



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