



APPLICATION CASE STUDY

COMPANY DETAILS – Tier 1 Automotive Supplier

Exhaust manifold manufacturer for the automotive industry

METAL MATES PRODUCTS IN USE

JL-12 Gel type lubricant for tube bending applications
Water diluted opaque gel

CUSTOMER NEEDS IDENTIFIED

This exhaust manifold manufacturer for the automotive industry was interested in cleaning up the mess caused by the tube bending lubricant. For several years they used a runny lubricant which dripped all over and left a sticky residual. Operators also complained about its odor caused by stagnant lubricant in catch pans. Costly absorbent mats had to be replaced around the benders on a daily basis.

ACCEPTED BENEFITS

Metal Mates developed a gel type lubricant specifically to address these problems. After several trials, a special application ejector pump was implemented to minimize the amount applied inside the tube. The following immediate benefits were observed:

- Engineers noted a 30% reduction in tool wear.
- Quality department found the tube had less metal thinning on the radius.
- Reduction in Lubricant Consumption

Purchasing noted a dramatic reduction in lubricant consumption from 40 gallons a week per bender to 5 gallons per week.

- Operators liked the gel because it did not splash on them.

VALUE TO CUSTOMER

To date, the largest savings have been the elimination of absorbent mats under the benders (savings of \$120,000 per year). The savings, with lube reduction, is estimated at \$300,000 per year.

Area: MICHIGAN

Date: Ongoing

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