

Surface Preparation on Chlorine Tanks in Paper Mill

Canadian contractor uses Sponge-Jet® abrasive blasting system and Sponge Media™ abrasives to clean and prepare chlorine tanks for repainting

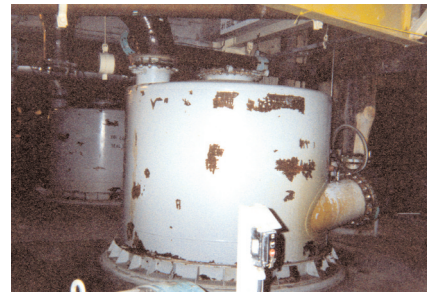


During a three-day shutdown, chlorine tanks in the bleach plant of a southeast Canadian paper mill were scheduled for repainting. Mill maintenance chose a local contractor who could minimize the time to strip and repaint the tanks, without interruption to other surrounding trades.

The contractor chose to Sponge-Jet abrasive blast the five chlorine tanks with Silver Sponge Media™ abrasives which would remove failing epoxy coating and achieve the specified NACE No.4 (SSPC SP-7) Brush-off Blast finish. The choice to use Sponge Media abrasives was based on the following process characteristics:

■ **Easily Contained** - There were other surrounding trades working near the chlorine tanks as well as sensitive electronic controls and process equipment. These required a low dust and low rebound abrasive that would be easier to contain than other abrasives.

■ **Fast Setup & Cleanup** - Due to the number of other activities and the short shutdown time, the process had to be quick to set up, operate and cleanup. The reusable, low dust and low rebound attributes of Sponge-Jet Sponge Blasting allow for simple containment, less media handling and quick cleanup.



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The contractor stripped the failing epoxy paint from the five chlorine tanks as specified, blasting at 40m²/hr (7ft²/minute). The maintenance supervisor and plant personnel were pleased that adjacent equipment and surrounding trades were able to continue uninterrupted.