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How Do You Dress Your Ironer Rolls?

by Paul Roche and David Tingue

Some years ago the idea was introduced that ironer rolls of 11" to 19" in diameter could be dressed with needlefelt padding over a spring base. These rolls can be covered with needlefelt padding, but it is not suggested that such a padding system is effective for an operator who is interested in quality and productivity. Needlefelt paddings were designed specifically for the large roll, 24" to 48" diameter, ironers and for these ironers they are very effective. However, for 11" to 19" diameter ironer rolls, what is recommended is a covering system that enhances productivity and offers the highest degree of quality of ironed linens.

The ability of any ironer to remove moisture from linen is directly related to the ability of its roll padding to release moisture in the form of vapor. Felt padding has the propensity to retain moisture. The proponents of needlefelt conversions admit that felts run wetter on 11" to 19" diameter ironer rolls. Once saturated with moisture there will be an obvious adverse effect on the ironer's ability to remove additional moisture.

Consider that ironers with 24" to 48" diameter rolls have vacuum exhaust fans for each roll and with vacuum orifices of 4" to 5" in diameter. It is through this mechanism that moisture is removed from the linen, through the roll covering system, into the roll, and, finally, out of the ironer. It is critical that the exhaust ducting for these large roll ironers be properly designed with no exhaust restrictions. Needlefelt padding works well for rolls with individual, large orificed, vacuum exhaust fans with properly designed exhaust fans.

11" to 19" diameter roll ironers, on the other hand, have just one vacuum fan which draws moisture from four to twelve rolls and through vacuum orifices that measure 1.5" to 2" in diameter. The smaller orifice greatly effects the amount of air and moisture that can be drawn from the roll. It has been shown that a 1" vacuum orifice will draw four times as much air as a 1/2" orifice. However, installing an expensive vacuum fan with four times the static rating of a conventional fan will less than double the vacuum draw. If the vacuum orifice is not large enough throughout the entire exhaust system, the vacuum draw will not be efficient. It should be noted that when the vacuum systems of these smaller roll ironers are in proper working condition, these ironers can be as productive as the most demanding operators could desire. Also, it is recommended that the vacuum system be cleaned at least annually. New vacuum gaskets and seals are available through Talley Machinery.

An ironer with a narrow vacuum orifice sharing a common exhaust fan with several other rolls, when combined with rolls that are covered with needlefelts, tends to retain moisture. This adds up to reduced drying capacity of the ironer. And since the linen must be dry after ironing, it is necessary to overcome the reduced drying capacity by either increasing tumbler conditioning time or reducing ironer speed and production.

The alternative is a combination roll dressing system consisting of a cover and an underpad. Tingulon Nomex, Polyflex, and Rotofelt coverings simply do not retain moisture. Therefore moisture is easily removed through the Aratex, Perma, or metal mesh BesTeel and Gemini padding materials. Because the roll surface is free of moisture, the rolls run hotter, and thus, more productively. The textured surface of the Tingulon Nomex, Polyflex, and Rotofelt materials delivers exceptional pulling ability, ensures a quality finish on the linen, and reduces the number of "jam-ups."

If one is to include the costs of lost production and increased gas and electricity expenses that come with the needlefelt roll dressings on 11" to 19" diameter ironer rolls, the choice becomes very clear. For best productivity and quality, choose a combination roll dressing that is designed to compliment your particular type of ironer and linen finishing requirements.

(Paul Roche has authored articles for various laundry industry publications. Look for more articles by Mr. Roche in future issues of TingueTopics.)

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Profile...

Paul P. Roche joined Tingue, Brown & Company as a sales representative in 1979. Originally Paul's sales territory consisted of Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, but over the years his responsibilities have increased. Today, as a District Sales Manager for Tingue, Brown & Company, Paul is responsible for business in nine Midwestern states.

Roche (say Ro - shay) has lived and worked in the Chicagoland area all his life. Prior to joining Tingue, Brown, Roche worked for Morgan Services as a Plant Manager in the company's Chicago headquarters facility. Morgan is well known by its customers, suppliers and competitors to be an organization that demands and delivers high quality. It is there that Roche picked up his own quality-demanding demeanor. A tribute to Roche's professional success is that today Morgan is one of his best customers.

Roche has authored many articles for publications such as Textile Rental and NAILM News. His forte is, of course, production and quality. Many laundry industry veterans have had the opportunity to learn Paul's "Ten Commandments" at Milliken's Laundry Training Seminars. Paul is well-known in his own territory for his in-plant seminars and his advice is turned to often by his fellow Tingue, Brown representatives across the country.

Paul and his wife, Donna, live in the Chicago suburb of Buffalo Grove with their two sons, Michael, 6, and Tommy, 8. Paul also has three older children: Rebecca, Deborah, and Paul, Jr. The junior Roche is active in the laundry industry in the Rockford, Illinois area and has the reputation as being one of the finest ironer padding installers around. The quality of his work has even astounded his demanding "old man"!

Paul Roche is another of the many employees that make Tingue, Brown the proud company it is today.

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Ask Tingue, Brown About...

Even Feeds

Tingue, Brown's representative from Battle Creek, MI, Fred Lofland, was asked recently by a customer, "My ironer chest is clean, but I still cannot get my linen to feed evenly into the first roll. What can I do?" Fred says, "There are several things to consider. First, although your chest may be clean, the area under the feed board teeth may have some build-up of lint, dirt, wax, etc. that is catching the linen. Try cleaning this area and then applying a strip of 4" teflon tape across the front lip of the first chest and under the feed board teeth. This will help reduce the build-up and allow the linen to slide freely under the first roll. Secondly, the teeth of the feed board may be bent, broken, or missing. Have these replaced. Thirdly, a "rougher" cover material on the first roll of the older, small roll ironers can be used to help pull the linen into the ironer. Try Tingue, Brown's Polyflex or Rotofelt covers."

Feed Ribbons

Ty Acton, Jr., from Tampa, Florida, was asked recently by a Tingue, Brown customer, "Why should I use endless feed ribbons instead of Clipper-laced ribbons? Ty explains, "Endless feed ribbon installation requires that the feed board be pulled forward and away from the lip of the first chest. This allows the maintenance crew the opportunity to clean the build-up that can accumulate on the lip [See "Even Feeds"]. Endless feed ribbons have also been known to last longer than laced ribbons. Furthermore, endless ribbons do not have pins that can back out and catch linen, feed board fingers, or, worse yet, human fingers."

Large Roll Pads

Another of Ty's friends asked recently, "What do you mean when you say that I need to trim my padding on my large roll ironer?"

Ty Acton, Jr.: "As a needlefelt pad ages in its production life, it tends to stretch from the constant pressure and pulling. 'Trimming' the pad means to cut the excess pad that develops so that there are exactly two or three wraps, whichever your ironer requires."

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Sweet Dreams

Henry Lack, Chief Engineer at Banner Linen in Detroit, Michigan told us that he had had nightmares recently knowing that he had to repad and cover an eight-roll ironer and a ten-roll ironer the following day. Henry had dreamt that the two ironers had turned into 100 roll ironers when he woke up! Fortunately, Henry had Tingue, Brown's Fred Lofland there to help him. The job was a tough one, but successfully completed. And Henry took advantage of his time with Fred and learned several ironing tips during the day. Thanks to Fred Lofland and Tingue, Brown, it's been nothing but sweet dreams for Henry since!

(Send us your favorite Tingue, Brown story and get your name in print, too!)

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New, Leak-Resistant Bags!!

Tingue, Brown's "Control" Line

The leak-resistance of Tingue, Brown's new bags lies in their thick, rugged 430-denier nylon construction, rather than on the coatings used on the approximately 70-denier competitive bags. Such coatings are removed or adversely affected by many elements of the laundering process, such as bleaching, lengthy drying at high temperatures, and alkalinity carryover. This means that the competitive bags must be promptly discarded or the safety of the entire operation becomes endangered.

Tingue, Brown's "Control" bags, on the other hand, have no coating to remove, and therefore have an expected life of 200 to 300 washings.

"Control" leak-resistant bags are available in white, red, royal blue, dark blue, and green. Standard sizes are 30" x 40" (18" diameter) and 40" x 40" (25" diameter), as well 20" x 30" in the "chair-back" style.

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The Corner Collection of Quarterly Quotables

The following are a few of the favorites of Ms. Ethel Kirby, Laundry Manager at Memorial Healthcare Center in Owosso, Michigan:

"The mind is like a parachute -- it must be open to work."

"The person who never makes mistakes must be tired of doing nothing."

"Always remember, if you want a place in the sun, you'll have to endure a few blisters."

"The trouble with people who talk too fast is that they often say something that they haven't thought of yet."

Send your favorite "Quotable" to: Tingue, Brown & Co., 7333 W. Harrison Street, Forest Park, Illinois, 60130, Attn: David Tingue

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