

Maruhachi Ceramics Of America, INC (MCA Tile)

Maruhachi Ceramics of America, Inc (MCA Tile) was founded in 1983. The company started out importing tile from Japan with the goal of building a factory in the U.S. The current production and distribution facility was opened in Corona, CA in October 1985. The company manufactures an extensive line of clay roof tile products which are sold directly to distributors, home builders and roofing companies. The products are used in the manufacture of residential, commercial and destination resort buildings. The company employs approximately 60 employees and generated \$8.6 million in sales at project start.

“CMTC has done an excellent job of helping us reduce costs and improve quality. We highly recommend their services.”

Yoshi Suzuki

Yoshi Suzuki
CEO/President

Issue/Needs

MCA Tile was experiencing a very high order backlog for their products due to the increased demand for housing throughout the U.S. This prompted MCA Tile to look for ways to increase their daily output by improving quality and productivity in order to continue to provide service to their customers.

Implementation Highlights

In October 2005, and lasting five months, MCA Tile and CMTC worked together to identify areas for energy savings, improved quality and increased productivity. CMTC’s VeSM (Value energy Stream Map) tool was employed to identify various projects which would reduce costs, reduce delivery time and increase reliability of delivery time promises to customers.

Improvement Description

MCA Tile staff improved several areas of business operations as a result of the VeSM tool. The overall quality of the tile extruding and glazing operations was improved through training employees and applying Six Sigma quality process techniques. The company made significant gains in reducing tile warpage and color variation. MCA management was able to design, develop and implement a new computer scheduling system to improve scheduling of customer order delivery requirements against available plant capacity. A VeSM energy demand assessment of all plant equipment was conducted. This assessment resulted in improvement events which replaced some older, less energy efficient equipment with new advanced equipment to reduce on-going energy and product costs.

Financial and Investment Impact

The continuous improvement projects have resulted in improved quality, increased daily productivity and reduced product costs for MCA Tile. The quality and scheduling improvement projects have resulted in annual operating cost savings of \$184,000. MCA invested \$35,000 in new, more efficient equipment. The energy savings received from this equipment reduced annual energy consumption by 161,590 kWh saving \$19,000 per year.

