



## Improvement of Quality through Cleanliness in the Production Process

**Sprockhövel, September 2006** - Wheels and castors make life easier - suddenly, with their aid, heavy machines and objects can be moved quite easily.

Through innovative ideas, perfected products and high quality, the company Wicke has established a leading position in production of wheels, steering castors and fixed castors for heavy loads. Wicke's core competence is the production of industrial articles made of Vulkollan® Polyurethan/Topthane® and elastic rubber. The requirements and the needs for quality wheels and castors have increased considerably in the recent past. In order to meet these demands, Wicke puts high importance to quality in the production process. Cleanliness and purity during production are very important contributory factors to the quality and reliability of the products.

Just a few years ago, little attention was paid to in-house cleaning in the manufacturing industry. In the meantime, it is generally recognized that cleanliness is an important factor, which begins with the construction and by no means ends with the packaging of the finished product.





With the FS 112 even areas under shelves or handrails can be easily cleaned.

In order to be flexible and independent, Wicke employs its own cleaning staff. This way they are able to react quickly, if additional cleaning is necessary due to an unexpected large amount of dirt arising during production. They also place particular importance on keeping the paths for driving in the production and warehouse areas clean and free of dust. The complete plant covers an area of 35,000 m<sup>2</sup> and is continuously cleaned by five employees.

The main task is to capture the rising dust and other dirt in the cleaning solution and then take it up directly. Further, marks on the floor caused by the numerous fork-lifts and transport vehicles used, have to be removed regularly.

It is not simply a matter of delivering high-quality products, but also of supplying the customers with clean castors. Dusty and dirty consignments would inevitably lead to dissatisfaction and customer complaints.

In order to cope with this task, Wicke has chosen the ride-on machine FS 112 and the vacuum-sweeper KS 105 from HEFTER Cleantech. Heinz-Werner Piepenbrink, Wicke's factory manager, confirms the company's purchasing decision: "Manoeuvrability and variable working widths were the main decision criteria. With these advantages, the systems fully meet our requirements". The TURNADO® technology developed by HEFTER Cleantech makes it possible to turn the scrubber-drier unit by up to 200° in all directions, either from a standing position or while driving.

This enables cleaning even while in reverse and in dead ends, and also makes small turning circles in limited space possible. The VARIOTECH® technology offers a variable and thus flexible working width, which automatically adjusts to changing layouts while in motion. With just this one machine, first narrow passages can be cleaned and straight afterwards large areas, now using the full working width. Such flexibility and variability are unique. The low overall height and the positioning of the cleaning units enables cleaning even under pallets and in areas which are blocked by production machines. These areas could otherwise only be cleaned manually and consuming time.

Areas heavily used by fork-lifts are a particular challenge to any cleaning system. These areas must be dry immediately after being cleaned, in order to avoid accidents caused through slippery surfaces. The very strong and precise suction system and the positioning of the squeegees ensure that the FS 112 meets these demands. Since the HEFTER cleaning systems have been in operation, there is a noticeable improvement in quality, due to the fact that the halls are free of dust; the air is also cleaner and thus healthier for the staff.



#### more informationen:

Wicke GmbH & Co. KG  
Elberfelder Straße 109  
45549 Sprockhövel-Herzkamp

contact person:  
Heinz-Werner Piepenbrink  
(factory manager)

phone: +49 (0) 2 02 25 28 - 0  
fax: +49 (0) 2 02 25 28 - 110

**HEFTER CLEANTECH GmbH**  
Marketing  
Am Mühlbach 6  
83209 Prien am Chiemsee



left Rolf Gläsel, Sales West Germany  
HEFTER Cleantech, right Heinz-Werner  
Piepenbrink, factory manager } Wicke

phone: +49 (0) 80 51 686-0  
fax: +49 (0) 80 51 686-179  
E-Mail: [cleantech@hefter.de](mailto:cleantech@hefter.de)  
[www.hefter-cleantech.de](http://www.hefter-cleantech.de)

