

Diamonds Are Dimension Company's BEST FRIEND



Indiana Dimension has saved money and increased productivity by using diamond tooling on its moulders, coping machines and single-end tenoners.

Indiana Dimension Inc. is in the midst of an expansion program that will double the Logansport, IN-based company's operations as well as introduce new products to its line of dimension components, including RTA cabinet doors and face frames. This success, however, did not come overnight.

Roy Rentschler and Milton Cole founded the company in 1990. "We decided we were going to go into the dimension business. We built a building, equipped it and struggled to survive for the first two years," said Rentschler, company president.

Success came when the company fine-tuned its operations, including a switch in tooling from carbide inserts to diamond. "We had heard some good things about diamond tooling controlling tolerances and wear," said Rentschler. The change quickly proved profitable.

"Some people will argue that diamond tooling is not cost effective, but our experience with it has been phenomenal," added Rentschler. "For our moulders, we used to spend as much as \$200 a day for carbide inserts, or \$50,000 over a year's time. Putting the diamond heads on the exact same machine might represent an initial investment of \$10,000, but you can run those diamond heads for a year. When you compound that times four, five or six machines, the savings is huge. If you are able to save \$250,000 a year, stay within your customers' tolerances and never have any performance issues, it becomes a huge plus." In addition to the cost savings, the diamond tooling also enabled the company to more than double its previous moulder rate, to 80 feet per minute.

Currently, eight machines use diamond tooling, include moulders, coping machines and single-end tenoners. "Saber Diamond has been very instrumental in getting us to the point where almost all our machining is now done with diamond tools," he said. "[They] have been very good at providing new diamond head designs and techniques to improve the quality of our products. They work closely with us, partnering to help in our success."

Rentschler also credits Saber's diamond tooling with giving Indiana Dimension the flexibility to enter new markets and produce new products. "Some very exciting things are in the works. I think people make the mistake of being shortsighted about costs — missing the big picture. People seem afraid of the initial cost of diamond tooling and do not think they have it in their budget," he said.

"We look back at the past six years and see our savings of \$1.5 million, and are very happy we made the change."

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