

Tekleen Self-Cleaning Filters Save on Downtime and Improve Efficiency at Great Dane Trailer Manufacturing Plants

Great Dane is probably the most recognized trailer manufacturer in the world, with 10 plants in the USA, 2 in China and a service center in Mexico. Products include refrigerated trailers, dry freight trailers, platforms and truck bodies, as well as refrigerated truck bodies, and also after-market spare parts.

Before it leaves the factory, each trailer product is water-tested under high pressure for integrity of the trailer structure. This quality-control process will help ensure protection of whatever is transported inside the trailer. Water in a high pressure spray hits the trailer in an enclosed room, using approximately 4000 gallons in 5 minutes. The enclosed high-pressure test and washing rooms are called Test Bays. According to Mr. Stolfe, the water pressure hits the trailer "like a hurricane." The test bays also thoroughly clean the trailers during the test process.

The Kewanee, IL plant has two test bays where Tekleen filters are installed. Another Tekleen filter services the new test bay at the Terre Haute, IN plant. One Tekleen filter is located at the new Ellisberg, PA plant. Tekleen filters are added to new plants and to new test bays as Great Dane expands their facilities.

In general, the Tekleen self-cleaning filters are used to clean the wash/testing water so that it can be re-used. They filter out ordinary debris left behind by the manufacturing process, which can include particles such as metal shavings, as well as everyday dust and dirt. The water is then recirculated into a 4000 gallon holding tank which supplies the cleaned water back into the plumbing system where it is sprayed out again at high pressure into the test bay.

The Tekleen filters used in the various Great Dane test bays are mounted on a specially-made metal frame and are plumbed into the adjacent water bay to refill the 4000 gallon holding tank.

Labor saving is about ½ hour per day due to no longer having to manually clean the filter.

Tekleen filters take the guess-work out of cleaning schedules as well, by initiating self-cleaning when the internal pressure differential inside the Tekleen filter triggers the process.

From an interview with Mr. Christopher Stolfe, Sr. Manufacturing Engineer at Great Dane Trailers, who also graciously provided these photos.



The photos show overall views of trailer Test Bays. The photos were taken during construction of these test bays. Above: To the left of the square-shaped enclosure where the trailer would be sprayed with high-pressure water, the Tekleen filter is installed on a special metal frame. Next to it is a 4000-gallon holding tank, which is the large white standing cylinder. Two brightly-colored traffic cones were used during this installation to protect the equipment and the serviceman shown kneeling there. His presence serves to show the immense scale of this Test Bay.

Below: Tekleen filter at right front on metal frame, with 4000-gallon holding tank behind it.



Tekleen industrial self-cleaning water filters are suitable for a wide range of applications: HVAC, petrochemical, pulp & paper, drinking water, golf & turf, sugar processing, metal processing, waste water, sea water filtration, greenhouse & nursery, plastics manufacturing, food industry, power generation, car wash water reuse and recycling, and fruit & vegetable irrigation.

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