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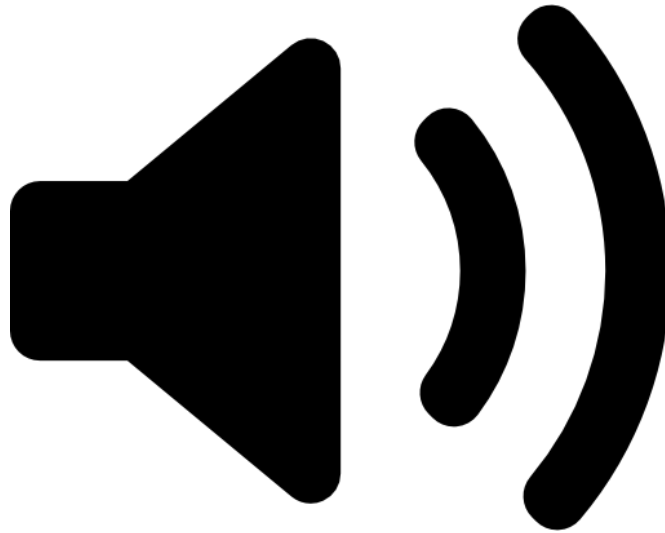
MAJOR CORRUGATED BOX MANUFACTURER GETS LEAN WITH FLEXPIPE

[President Container](#) – a major manufacturer of [corrugated boxes](#) with a storied history going back to 1947 – had three core objectives when creating their lean visual workplaces: Improve visuals and cleanliness in and around workplaces and machines, reduce manufacturing setup times, and enact effective end-of-shift cleanups. Find out how Matthew Grossbard – Continuous Improvement Manager at President Container – leveraged Flexpipe’s solutions to create these lean visual workplaces with easily-assembled Flexpipe structures and material handling systems.

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LISTEN: AUDIO INTERVIEW WITH MATTHEW GROSSBARD

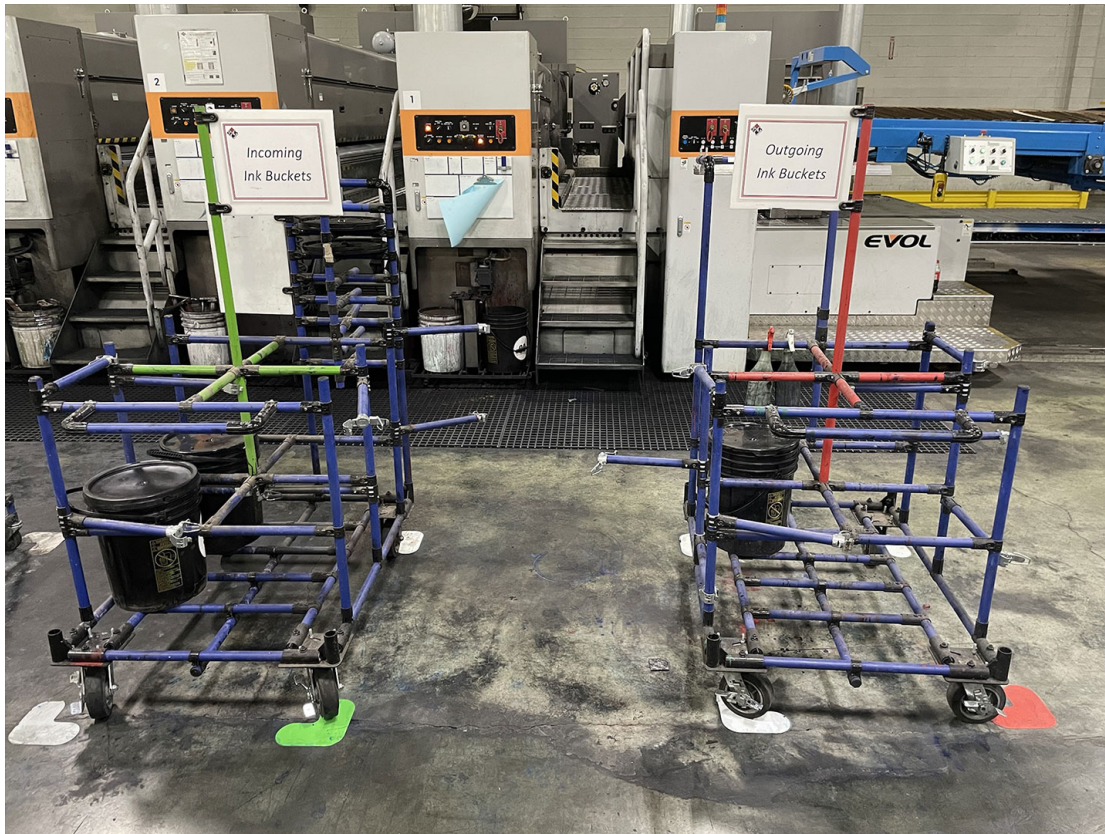
In this interview, Matthew Grossbard, Continuous Improvement Manager at President Container Group, talks about how continuous improvement is achieved. Interview conducted by Caroline St-Germain and Charles-Olivier Roy of Flexpipe's marketing team.

0:00 / 11:52

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE LEAN

The essential principle of [lean manufacturing](#) – and its precursor [5S](#) (Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain) – is to eliminate waste by using clearly-distinguishable visual queues and clean workstations to increase productivity and efficiency.

Success requires flexible, nimble, and easily-scalable solutions where continuous improvement is a continuous feedback loop; Improve efficiency by identifying the root cause of downtime, enact a proactive improvement plan, assess results, and make adjustments if needed.

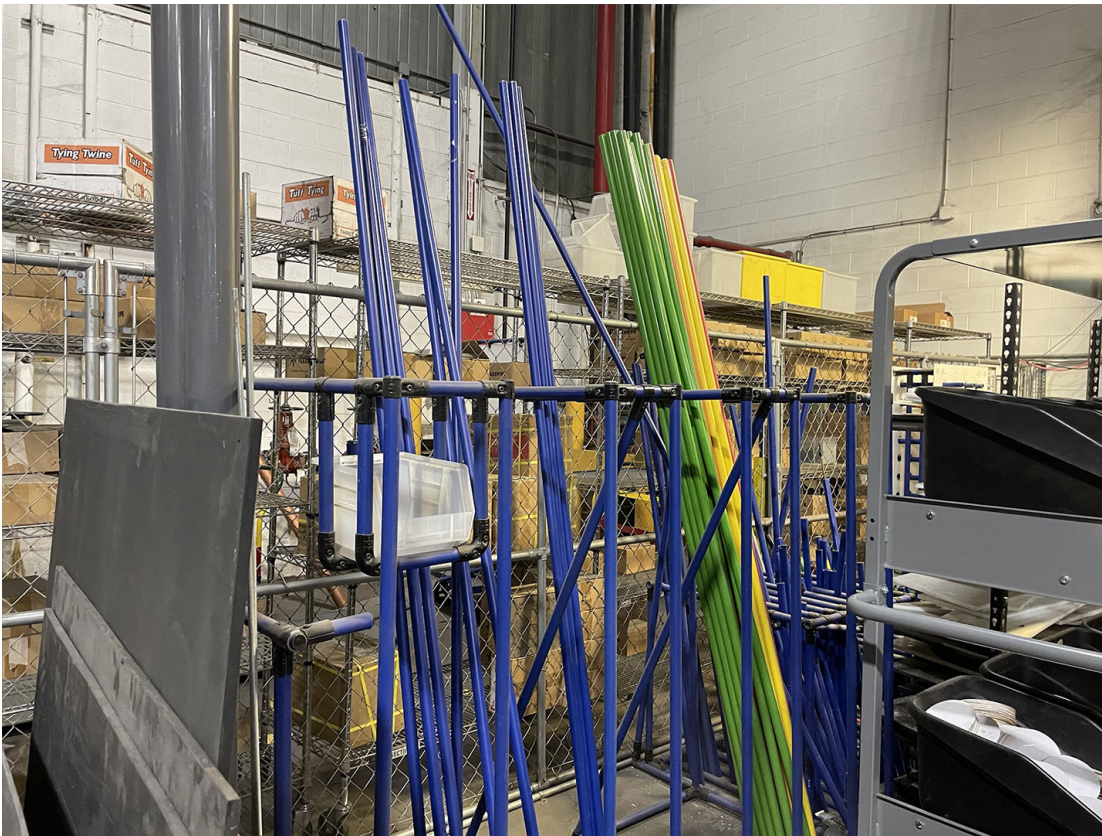


In President Container's case, they used this flexibility to full effect by making Flexpipe a critical component in their lean visual workplaces

The solution is so flexible that companies can also construct their own portable carts and tuggers. In President Container's case, they used this flexibility to full effect by making Flexpipe a critical component in their [lean visual workplaces](#) as Matthew Grossbard, Continuous Improvement Manager, stated "From where we started to where we are now – from a visual standpoint around the facility – it's night and day."



This workshop is a real paradise for every continuous improvement technician!



A stock of pipes ready for a new continuous improvement project.



This workshop contains everything that makes it possible to quickly respond to the needs for continuous improvement coming from the production team.

A FIVE-YEAR COLLABORATION WITH PROVEN RESULTS

Tribalism is a common problem in manufacturing. However, working from memory without standardization can cause several problems. It's also common for production employees to claim ownership of tools while adopting their own storage practices. Sometimes they even hide those tools.




Creating a visible workplace means employees see an organization invested in its success and theirs.

All of this adds up to a lot of wasted time, something Matthew as Continuous Improvement Manager experienced himself. After adopting Flexpipe's easily assembled work structures he asked a rhetorical question with a fantastic answer; "How long did it take to find that tool before? It took about 10 minutes. So, when we created the organized visual workplace it now only takes 5 seconds."

Creating a visible workplace means employees see an organization invested in its success and theirs. It puts an end to tribalism while making it easier for new employees to transition into their new roles. Standardization is key and periodic



Gemba Walk Audit Form				
Name: _____		Yes: ALL standards are being met, no exceptions No: One or all standards are NOT being met. If you circle No, you <u>must document</u> the corrective action taken.		
Date: _____				
Machine Center: _____				
Shift: _____				
Description	Standards	Circle Yes or No		Comments/Corrective Actions
Necessary V.S. Unnecessary	Work stations at machine are organized and clean No excess inventory at machine ALL flat surfaces throughout the machine center are clear of debris	YES	NO	
A place for everything & everything in its place!	All structures are within decals (mobile & non-mobile) All the shadow boards have corresponding tools, none missing All Min. & Max. levels are being followed & respected	YES	NO	
Neat & Clean	Dust on the machine & all Flexpipe apparatus' is minimal Ink spills/ tape marks throughout the machine center is addressed & cleaned up immediately Only (2) garbage cans allowed at the machine center Downtime is allocated accordingly for production needs/ sustainability needs	YES	NO	
Guidelines & Uniformity	Audit Current Visual PCG Process - First Approved Box -Converting Waste Ticket Process -Caliper Check - PH & Viscosity Board -WIP Load Tag Process -Make A-Box Sample -Return Print Plate Sample ***Check GCMI Book is in Location***	YES	NO	
Sustaining & Continuous Improvement	All employees have received their '5S Visual Workplace' Introduction (includes floaters, cross-trained employees, in-training employees) Communication Board is up-to-date with ALL information (Maintenance Work Orders/ Production Numbers/ Prior Gemba Score)	YES	NO	
Safety Awareness	LOTO procedures are displayed & locks are put away when not in use No debris on floor- Green straps/ Corrugated sheets/ Excess pallets/ etc.. Personal Belongings are in designated areas- Bags/Coats/Drinks/etc.. Egress paths & electrical panels are clear of obstructions- NO exceptions	YES	NO	
Once completed, turn your Audit Form into the Operations Manager for review.		Score: ____ YES / 6 YES		

Audits and Gemba walks are all part of President Container's continuous feedback loop.

Matthew's five-year relationship with Flexpipe is also playing a critical role in [changing the company culture](#) while also improving employee retention. Employees are starting to appreciate the cleanliness of the workplace and the simplicity of Flexpipe's products when erecting standing structures and it's clearly having an impact on employee morale.

Employee buy-in means employees can look to the Continuous improvement team to create new structures as "the crews bring up requests to us on a regular basis". Employees fill out suggestion forms about any improvements they feel need to be made. While the CI team received more forms initially, he now sees fewer requests which he attributes to the successful adoption of the Flexpipe solution.



The continuous improvement suggestion box.

LOW COSTS WITH FLEXPIPE CUSTOMIZABLE STRUCTURES

For the CI team, the ability to quickly create customized, strong, durable standing structures and material handling systems with Flexpipe's pipe and joint systems is the ideal solution. The company is no longer burdened by the high costs of manufacturing fixed structures.

Companies typically ask maintenance to create standing structures and it's a costly endeavor. Aside from the time needed to manufacture the structure, there's also the time involved in researching and purchasing multiple different materials, which are rarely off-the-shelf items.



Structure realized by the Continuous improvement team.



Spending valuable production time manufacturing a fixed structure that may, or may not, be a solution is by no means lean. It's a waste of time, valuable resources, and money. None of this is a concern for President Container. According to Matthew, "That's the beauty of your product. It's



A TRUE TEAM EFFORT

President Container ensures that the whole team is involved in putting together a Flexpipe modular structure. The Sustainability Department is responsible for ensuring all modular structures are clean and maintained. The Project Department starts the build from the ground up when new machines are received. These two departments act as the leads with Matthew overseeing it all as the Continuous Improvement Manager.



Matthew Grossbard with 2 members of his continuous improvement team: Mana Sanchez, Sustainability Lead, and Chris Pryce, Project Lead.

Every time the company receives a new machine or piece of equipment invariably requires a new visual workplace. The CI team has clearly benefited from their experience with Flexpipe solutions as it allows them to quickly and seamlessly revamp old structures. Even for everyday problems, there's a solution with Flexpipe "recently, we had a challenge where we didn't have a place for a tool. OK. We don't have a place for it so let's go build one."

AN INNOVATIVE SOLUTION

Perhaps the greatest example of innovation is exemplified by how the CI team spearheaded quick assembly of a Flexpipe structure to sit on the top of a flatbed Golf Cart. This structure



The ultimate benefit of this initiative meant no individual workplace or equipment was left sitting idle waiting for critical tools or materials. This novel solution significantly cut down on idle time while reducing transit times for employees.



This golf cart was optimized as a transportation waste solution.

Flexpipe's solutions are easy-to-assemble and just as easy-to-disassemble. The Flexpipe family of products reduces waste, improves efficiencies, eliminates idle time, and maximizes production and warehouse space. It's the ideal solution for any business looking to adopt lean principles.



CRACK DOWN ON PRODUCTION WASTES WITH FLEXPIPE

SHOP STARTER KITS



SHELLY JACOB - Project Manager - Northeast US

Shelly joined Flexpipe in Feb 2022 as the Project Manager for Northeast US. She has 27-year experience as a Director of Production and Sourcing manager for an accessories company. She strives to be the best mom she can be and loves to spend time with her family. Her motto is "A smile is the only thing in life that is free"

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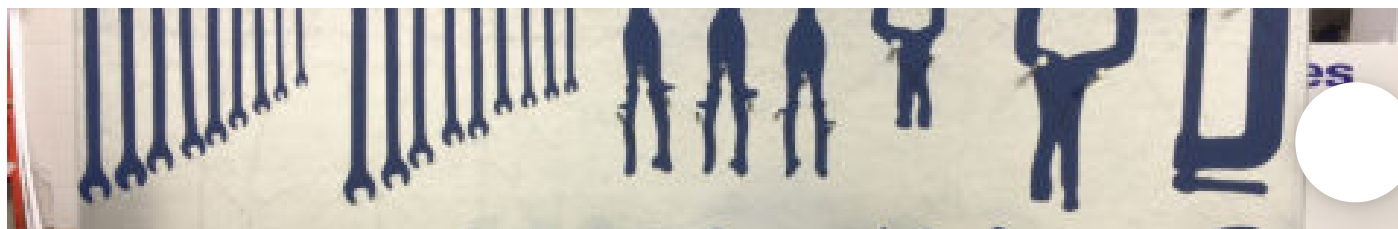
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FLEXPIPE IS STRONG, LEAN, CREATIVE & COMPATIBLE... DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT!

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