

MADISON, Ind. – Midwest Tube Mills (MTM), a leading manufacturer of steel tubing for the high security, industrial/commercial and residential markets, reports it has received conclusive “best-in-class” results on their powder coated product line from third party testing labs and by their customers.

Midwest Tube Mills uses 100% American Made and sourced steel in the manufacturing of their tube and is dedicated to the quality standards required by both ASTM and DOT.

“Our fully-galvanized tube has been recognized for its quality and durability for years,” said Rick Russell, MTM CEO. “MTM shipped large volumes of product all over North America and Canada and achieved

Midwest Tube Mills undertakes program to make it the leader in the powder coated tube industry

in excess of 99% on-time rating for the past year. MTM’s growth has been staggering and our powder coated tube line has grown significantly as a percent of total sales.

“Powder coated tube has grown to a significant volume of our total tube business and our customers deserve the best product, of the highest quality, shipped on time, at a competitive price,” he added.

Over the past two years, the company began an extensive project to become the best producer in the powder coated tube industry. MTM invested



Above is a view of MTM's powder coating quality control laboratory. (MTM photo)

significantly in their powder coating systems, including enhanced powder chemistry, expanded line capacity,

packaging, ongoing maintenance and training. The results have been recognized as “impressive,” “significant,” and “best-in-class” by third party testing labs and by their customers, Russell said.

Starting in the second half of 2014, MTM expanded their line capacity by extending their powder coating operating line and adding a second curing oven.

In addition to line speed and efficiency, the expansion of their Gema spray gun arsenal now provides superior coverage flow and consistency.

Recently, MTM has contracted the ongoing support of service providers with more than 26 years in the industry.

These engineers provide for routine PM service, ongoing employee training, and assistance with future enhancements, including doubling their capacity over the next year, Russell noted.

MTM partnered with their powder suppliers to develop a polyester powder that would improve production capacities while enhancing the finished product. Rapid cure technology was introduced which allowed the tube to gel and adhere at a much faster rate. This maximized line speeds and production capacity.

This technology, combined with the use of a clear polymer primer, has shown to provide the greatest bonding results, Russell noted.

Advanced abrasion resistance was also engineered into the chemistry to keep the product from picking up rub marks or scratches while in transport or during installation. MTM also enhanced their packaging to include an improved plastic outer bundle covering and protective internal mid-section wrap.

The new plastic wrap reduces the impact of heat and the greenhouse effect a bundle may experience while on the wholesaler’s yard or on the job site during summer months.

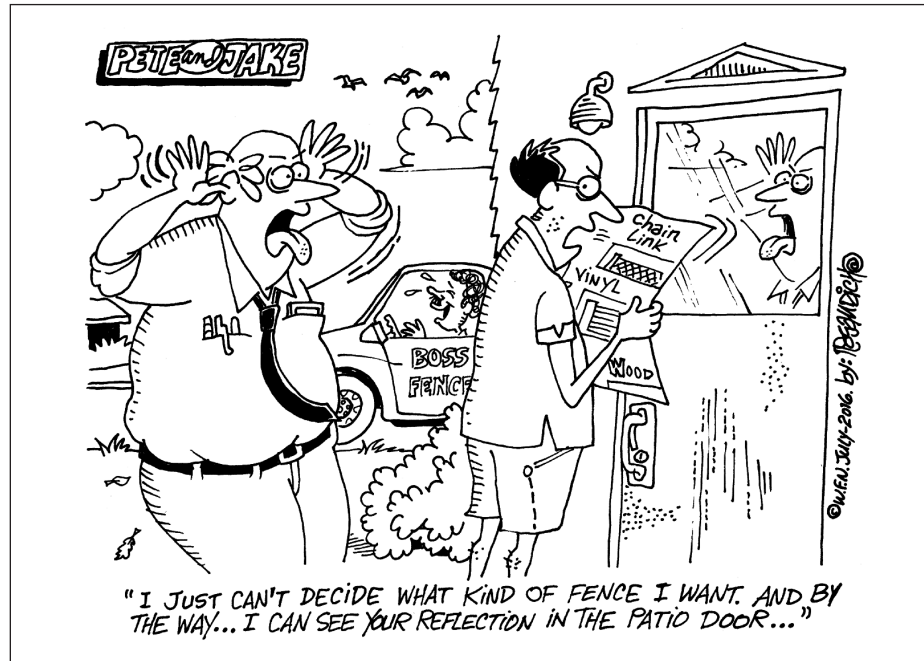
The mid-section wrap adds additional protection when handling and transporting the tube with equipment.

Each step of the way, MTM put their product through an array of comparative tests including salt spray, impact, UV, Xenon, pencil hardness, and Taber abrasion testing, he said.

“In test after test, MTM’s product outperformed the competitors’ products in the market. Even leading competitive manufacturers rumored of providing high quality and performing products fell significantly short.”

Of specific note, Taber (as per ASTM D4060-95) tests for abrasion resistance by measuring the amount of coating material lost during an

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impact or as the result of friction with another object. The results of the testing showed MTM's powder coated tube outperformed a leading competitor by 82.7%, Russell stated, adding that, "The results support a more durable, abrasion resistant product that will last longer and look better for their customers."

He added that MTM packed samples of their product, the leading competitor's product, and a third test sample and headed to their customers

distribution facilities. The customer was asked to compare and select their choice in a blind sample study.

Eighteen different samples were cut, bent, impacted, scratched, and compared for proper color and overall appearance, and in all cases technicians, managers, and salesmen chose MTM product as being superior, he said.

MTM offers black, green, and brown colors in both polyester and 10 mil polyolefin coatings on their entire assortment of round and square tube, per industry standard specifications.

Midwest Tube's fully-galvanized and color-coated products may be obtained from reputable distributors nationwide, he noted.