

2014 TEEA Winner Pollution Prevention Category: PVI Industries, LLC, Fort Worth

Narrator

Fifty years ago, PVI Industries found its niche: producing Texas-sized water heaters for Texas-sized projects.

Donald Mapes, Vice President of Operations

Football stadiums, other sports venues, large hotels.

Narrator

For most of its history, the company relied on a corrosion protection process that generated roughly 1.5 million pounds of waste every year.

Richard Carter, Manufacturing Engineering Supervisor

Typically, we would haul off 8,000 to 10,000 gallons a quarter of waste. That is completely eliminated with Aquaplex.

Donald Mapes

Right around 2007, we decided to really get serious about reducing the environmental footprint.

Narrator

After five years of experimentation, PVI switched from electroless nickel plating to stainless steel.

Brett Ishman, Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator

Our waste streams are about a half a percent of what it was in 2008.

Paul Bothner, Product Manager

For the same selling price, we're able to offer customers an even better product than the nickel-plated water heaters.

Narrator

The new production line includes a machine that cuts metal with water.

Richard Carter

It takes water and compresses it to about 45,000 to 50,000 PSI and it also allows for no post-process clean up.

Narrator

The process represents just one part of a cultural shift at PVI that now includes an expanded recycling program, sky lights in place of electric lights, and automated welding machines which use less electricity.

All this began with a question every Texan should ask.

Brett Ishman

Looking at what we've done in the past, what can we do to make it better?