

# ***Cleaning Your Conveyor Belt the Richwood Way***

## **Outline**

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- II Why we offer engineered solutions for your specific application
- III How to begin--A step-by-step guide to better belt cleaning
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### **I. Introduction: The Importance of Cleaning**

Most of the materials mined in the world spend more or less time on a belt conveyor. Belt conveyors are widely used because they are adaptable to a wide range of circumstances, cost-effective, and easily modified. They do, however, suffer from one perennial problem--All the material does not come off at the discharge end. Material sticks to the belt and is carried back on the return side of the belt to be transferred to structure, idlers and the ground under the conveyor. This material, called *carryback*, causes premature wear to belt, idlers, and other components and creates housekeeping and environmental problems as material builds up under the conveyor. The job of a belt cleaner is a simple one--To ensure that all the conveyed material is removed at the discharge end of the conveyor. The statement is simple but the job really is not. The varying materials, high belt speeds, damaged belts and splices, and the chutes required to handle bulk materials all make the job of cleaning conveyors quite complex. From the very beginning of Richwood's business as a manufacturer, our business has been primarily belt cleaning. The design of our equipment has stood the test of hundreds of applications in different kinds of bulk material handling all over the world. We are delighted that you are considering the advantages of Richwood equipment in your business. You can be confident that our extensive experience will provide the best possible results in the shortest possible time. This article will guide you as you discover how Richwood can help you solve your conveyor-related problems.

### **II. Engineered Applications for High-quality Results**

At Richwood, we approach every application individually and design the installation based on its unique characteristics. It is no exaggeration at all to say that we custom-build every belt cleaner. Out-of-the-box belt cleaners by their very nature are a compromise between speed and convenience of manufacture and the requirements of the application. In a similar way, ready-made clothes are often satisfactory at a basic level but when appearance and quality are truly important, people rely on tailor-made clothing to put themselves in the best light. At Richwood, we expect our products to

furnish extraordinary service and, for this reason, we design and build every application to be the best possible. The characteristics of the individual conveyor and the nature of the particular material conveyed are considered to decide what the recommended equipment will be. We believe that designing and building exactly what you need is the most cost-effective and efficient way to get the job done for the long term and is well worth the time it takes.

### **III. How to Begin**

A. Our relationship should begin with a visit from our representative. He will personally examine your conveyor and gather information for our proposal. He will need to measure and sketch the conveyor where the equipment will be installed. He will need operating characteristics of the conveyor and will consider any other special requirements you may have. Helpful information you will want to have ready will include the following:

- Material conveyed
- Tonnage conveyed
- Belt speed
- Belt material and construction
- Belt condition
- Type and number of belt splices

In general, faster moving conveyors carrying higher tonnage will require more cleaners. Older belts with irregular surfaces and numerous mechanical splices will require more cleaners than new belts with vulcanized splices. Your design drawings of the conveyor will save time if they can be made available to us. We also offer CAD blocks of our equipment if you wish to submit drawings with the equipment placed on your conveyor.

B. The Customer Service department is your day-to-day contact with Richwood. If you don't know your sales engineer yet, they will arrange for him to call. They will set up your account, make shipping arrangements, arrange for credit terms and furnish quotations for your equipment. When you are ready to order your equipment, they will collect the necessary information and start your order through engineering and manufacturing. If approval drawings or certified drawing are necessary, Customer Service will arrange for them.

C. The Richwood Engineering Department draws the final layout of your installation and issues the job to manufacturing. The process in this department shows our sincere desire to avoid mechanical conflicts and interferences when your equipment is installed. If components need to be modified or relocated, we will discuss it with you in advance. If special brackets or fabrications are necessary, they will be manufactured with your order so that everything necessary for your job will be there when you install it. We understand that scheduling downtime for installations is costly. We want to get it right the first time. That is why we emphasize the importance of gathering specific details of your installation in advance. The drawing you will receive with your cleaners will not be a generic or typical layout of a typical cleaner. It will be an actual drawing of YOUR cleaners on YOUR conveyor.

D. Once the job is in Manufacturing, the equipment you need is produced. All of our cleaning equipment is produced in our Huntington, WV shops. All welding, fabricating, machining, coating and vulcanizing are under our direct control. Your equipment is built, checked, packed and shipped from a single source. This level of direct control means reduced error and delay in providing your equipment.

E. When the equipment is delivered and you are ready to install it, Richwood will have a representative present at no additional charge to assist your supervisors when they begin the work. Our personal presence at your installation is part of our commitment to your success.

F. After the equipment is installed, remember that Richwood has a continuing interest in your success. We keep complete records of all belt cleaner installations in a database available to Customer Service so that when you need parts or service items, you will get what you need without delay because of our complete records of each conveyor cleaner you have. It is not unusual for us to see parts orders for cleaners installed ten years ago or more. The value of this kind of attention to detail is impossible to overestimate. You can buy Richwood belt cleaners, as well as all Richwood products with the confidence that you are buying not only a high-quality product but also long-term customer support that will work for you far into the future.

***To learn more about Richwood's line of Conveyor Belt Cleaners go to [www.richwood.com](http://www.richwood.com).***