
KAIZEN KORNER:

Skid Storage Kaizen

Q. What was the problem?

A. There were too many bad skids put in the skid rack and they were not organized by size. Finding usable skids, which we do all the time, was taking too much time.



Q. What is considered a “bad skid?”

A. One that is flimsy and won't hold weight. It might have more than one broken slat; it might be crooked and have nails popping out of it. If it can't hold the weight, it's a bad skid.

Q. Where do our skids come from?

A. From deliveries. All of the refractory and metal pieces and parts we receive come in on skids from our suppliers. Because we re-use all of those we get with deliveries, we rarely need to purchase more, which saves money.

Q. What are they used for here at Rose?

A. We use the skids to move stuff all around our facility using fork lifts. We stage pieces and parts on them to prepare for new jobs, too.

Q. Are most skids the same size?

A. No – they are all different sizes and we do save all sizes, depending on what we need them for.

Q. Where are the skids kept?

A. We have two designated storage areas for the skids. One is in the Machine Shop Yard near the propane tanks. The other one is near the paint and blast building. These areas are marked with blue SKIDS signs.

Q. What was the suggestion for improvement?

A. The idea is to keep the skid areas organized by first marking the areas then storing a minimum amount of skids in the Machine Shop Yard. A larger number of skids are stored in the Blast and Paint area where I can see them more frequently and where I can keep a pile for Mark Metals to use.

Only solid usable skids should be included in these storage areas.

We have a roll-off for broken or flimsy skids and other types of scrap wood in the “Lower 40.” Noll Pallet supplies the roll-off free of charge to us and in return, they use the wood we put inside for their own needs.

Q. What were some of the things you did to improve the organization of the skids?

A. In the blast and paint area, we stenciled the walls to designate which skids stay at Rose and which are being saved for Mark Metals. Mark Metals uses the skids to pack up materials and send to our customers. We also marked the skid collection area in the Machine Shop Yard.

Q. How long ago was this implemented?

A. We started talking about the idea last summer but actually started doing it within the last six weeks.

Q. How's it working?

A. It is working better. We just have to get everyone on board with what they need to do with bad skids. It will take everyone make this Kaizen work.

Q. Does keeping this area organized help anyone other than you?

A. Definitely! It helps anyone who is using skids to move stuff around the shop or for staging any parts.

Q. How can everyone at Rose help with this new kaizen?

A. Co-workers should identify broken skids when handling them. When they can't take the broken skids to the roll-off themselves, they should set the skids to the side of the storage areas. I can see them easier and take them to the roll-off myself as I do my rounds. This will help everyone using skids save a lot of time because we don't have to dig the good ones out. There is a lot of stacking and unshackling involved and the less that has to be done the more efficient we can be.

Thanks, Hector. And a reminder to all handling skids ... please set broken skids to the side of the stacks if to prevent wasted time in the future.