



Blackmer C-Series Eccentric Disc Pump Eliminates Ongoing Monthly Lobe Pump Failure At Rock-Tenn Paper Mill



Tim Kreitz, Project Engineer for Rock-Tenn's St. Paul Mill Recycling Center, kneels next to the Blackmer C-Series Eccentric Disc Pump.

An efficient manufacturing process requires all of the various pieces of equipment involved in the operation to be working in harmony. Unfortunately for Norcross, GA-based [Rock-Tenn Company](#), that wasn't the case in late 2005 at its St. Paul Mill Recycling Center in St. Paul, MN. The St. Paul Mill—one of 92 facilities operated in the United States by Rock-Tenn, one of the world's largest manufacturers of packaging products, merchandising displays and recycled paperboard—was experiencing a string of costly breakdowns in a lobe-style pump that was

used to introduce a starch-based compound into the recycling process.

"It was an older pump and the seals would start to leak, then the pump would start to go," said Tim Kreitz, the mill's Project Engineer who is responsible for pumps and systems at Rock-Tenn's third largest paper mill. "It would cost us \$3,500 to rebuild it each time and it would go out at least once a month."

Tired of writing a repair check every month, Kreitz went about finding a replacement for the unreliable lobe pump. His search led him to Blackmer and the company's [C-Series line of eccentric disc pumps](#). In comparison to the lobe pump that had been in use, the C-Series eccentric disc pump has one shaft that is isolated from the pump fluid by a stationary bellows that flexes to take up the eccentric motion of the disc. Therefore, no mechanical seals are needed in its design. Lobe pumps,



[C-Series Spec Sheet \(PDF\)](#)



[C-Series Eccentric Disc Pump](#)

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however, have a second shaft with each shaft requiring a mechanical seal. Since lobe pumps are designed with two seals, it is a pump that is more prone to leakage and this certainly was the case in Rock Tenn's starch application.

In March of 2006, a Blackmer C-Series C8I Model pump was installed and since then Kreitz has experienced none of the problems that dogged the old lobe pump. Kreitz also ordered a second C8I as a backup in case the first one failed and that second pump has also already paid for itself, as well, even though it still sits in its original packaging in a storage facility at the St. Paul Mill.

"It paid for itself in the first two months after we installed it," Kreitz said. "It's been in there for so long now, and it's never been touched, that I can't even remember when I installed it. I put it in and forgot about it."

For more information on Blackmer [C-Series line of eccentric disc pumps](#), please visit us at www.blackmer.com.

We welcome your feedback and hope you find this information useful.

Respectfully,

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