LANE CONDITIONING BASICS

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PREPARING YOUR MACHINE FOR NEW CONDITIONER

Wick-less Machines: We recommend that you drain the old conditioner completely and flush the tank with a small amount of the new DURAMAX™ Lane Conditioner. After flushing, fill the tank to the appropriate level. It may also be necessary to adjust the pressure setting on your machine to accommodate a change in viscosity. Tube size can also play a role in proper tank pressure. Refer to the owners manual for your lane machine to determine the proper tube length and pressure setting.

Wick Machines: For wick technology machines, drain the old conditioner from the tank and flush with a small amount of DURAMAX™ Lane Conditioner. Fill a dishpan with the new conditioner and submerge new oil wicks into the pan to completely saturate. Allow the wicks to soak for 3 hours, then remove and squeeze out excess lane conditioner. Place the new wicks in the lane machine and attach the wick springs and solenoid cables.

DAILY LANE MAINTENANCE

Consistent lane conditions will maximize scoring, which is certainly what your bowling customers are looking for. Therefore, it is recommended that you clean and condition the lanes on a daily basis.

ANALYZING THE LANES

As part of a regular lane maintenance schedule, periodically run a UV tape to chart your lane pattern. These readings can help you trouble shoot the lane conditions in your center. It is also important to mention that ball performance can be significantly impacted by poor lane topography, which will not be revealed on UV tapes. **Note:** To ensure that the UV in the lane oil provides an accurate measure, always shake the bottle of lane conditioner before use to evenly disperse the UV additive.

BOWLING CENTER ENVIRONMENT

Humidity: While still a factor affecting ball reaction today, humidity was more of a concern in the past when most bowling centers were using solvent-based lane conditioners. Changes in humidity would alter the evaporation rate of the solvents and, thereby, would change the performance of the lane dressing.

Temperature: The variable that may have the most significant impact on the 100% solids lane conditioners of today is temperature. Lower temperatures cause the oil to become thicker (raise the viscosity) and higher temperatures cause the oil to become thinner (reduce the viscosity). This impacts oil flow through wicks, tank pressure, ball reaction on the lane surface, and more. Therefore, it is very important that the lane machine and the lane conditioner are stored in a temperature controlled area. Maintaining a consistent temperature year-round will help to minimize performance variations.

TROUBLE SHOOTING LANE CONDITIONS

Too Much Carry-down: Generally, excessive carry-down results from having too much oil on the lane. A thicker application will carry-down more than a thinner application. To reduce the amount of conditioner carry-down, decrease the distance of the applied oil in the center of the lane. This will reduce the thickness of the conditioner pattern and reduce overall carry-down.

Too Much Back-End Reaction: If the back end reaction is too strong you need to lengthen the conditioner pattern on the lane surface. Do not adjust the amount of oil being applied. Instead, increase the pattern distance.

Not Enough Back-End Reaction: If power players cannot get the bowling ball to swing back into the pocket you could have excessive carry-down or too much oil applied to the outside boards. To correct excessive carry-down, refer to the section above titled “Too Much Carry-down”. If you are not experiencing heavy carry-down, correct this problem by moving the pattern inward toward the center of the lane to reduce the amount of oil being applied to the outside boards.

Too Much Reaction In The Heads: If the ball is hooking in the heads there is not enough oil being applied to the area. Slowing the machine down as oil is applied in the heads is the best way to increase the amount of oil applied. Slowing the machine down on the reverse pass will usually increase the amount of oil applied to the lane surface more than slowing the machine on the forward pass.

Too Much Reaction Mid-Lane: If the ball is reacting too much in the middle of the lane, more oil should be applied. The best way to do this is to slow down the machine over the mid-lane on the reverse pass. Increasing the amount of oil applied on the forward pass could result in too much oil being buffed out toward the end of the pattern. This could result in excess carry-down and loss of back end ball reaction.