



INDUSTRIAL AIR CLEANING SAVES ON COSTLY INVESTMENTS



CUSTOMER

Norddeutsche Textil Logistik GmbH



LOCATION

Neustadt-Glewe (DE)



SECTOR

Textile logistics



DUST REDUCTION

80%

AT A GLANCE

“The decrease in the dust quantity due to the air cleaning devices far exceeded my expectations. Manual cleaning of the goods in the warehouse has now been 100% eliminated. This cost savings of several thousand euros per year means that the air cleaning system has virtually paid for itself.”

Gerhard Meyer, General Manager

CHALLENGES

Norddeutsche Textil Logistik (NTL) GmbH is one of the leading textile logistics specialists in Germany. Up to 200,000 pieces of clothing are handled on a daily basis. All of these activities generate a high level of dust, mainly due to heavy abrasion in the hall. To get these particles under control, staff had to manually clean the dust-laden goods. This significantly limited productivity. Nevertheless, customer complaints could not be completely avoided. NTL was already considering a costly renovation of the hall floor.

ABOUT NTL GMBH

Norddeutsche Textil Logistik (NTL) GmbH, situated in the town of Neustadt-Glewe in Mecklenburg, has been grappling with persistent dust problems for quite some time now. In the NTL warehouse, up to 200,000 pieces of clothing are handled on a daily basis – all of which have fallen victim to high dust levels. In its battle against dust, NTL ultimately found its ideal partner in Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, reducing dust levels by nearly 80%. This massive decline has paved the way for significant improvements in a variety of business areas:

BENEFITS

Shortly after the installation of the air cleaning units from Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, the dust build-up was reduced by approximately 80%. This completely eliminated the need for the time-consuming and costly manual cleaning of the stored goods. This has saved on costs and has increased productivity. The well-being of the employees, some of whom suffer from allergies and asthma, has increased significantly due to the better air quality. In addition, the logistics company has achieved a large reduction in customer complaints. The expensive investment for the hall floor was unnecessary.



greatly reduced cleaning costs, clean outer packaging processes for goods, fewer customer complaints and last but not least, more motivated employees breathing healthier air.



Manual cleaning to ensure customer satisfaction

Dust is often a critical factor in the logistics sector. It not only builds up quickly and in abundance, but can also damage operating processes in two ways: **goods contaminated with layers of dust lead to customer complaints, not to mention the adverse effects on employee health and productivity caused by dust entering the respiratory tract.** Responding to the problem with more intense cleaning does not solve the core issue, but generally only wastes valuable resources.

A similar scenario played out at Norddeutsche Textil Logistik GmbH. Their warehouse in Neustadt-Glewe near the city of Schwerin is an important hub where textiles are inspected according to special quality criteria and are sometimes stored for extended periods of time. “The amount of dust that started to collect on the goods made it impossible to send them off in that condition,” says General Manager Gerhard Meyer, describing the futile attempts at tackling the dust issue in the beginning. **“Even extensive wet cleaning two or three times a week could not rectify the dust problem.** Out of concern for customer complaints, my staff started to clean the goods themselves by hand. This placed considerable limits on our productivity, however. I was at my proverbial wit’s end and was nearly prepared to go ahead with an expensive renovation of the entire warehouse floor in order to reduce friction with cardboard packaging in particular. But just at that moment, shortly before I had abandoned my last hopes of finding a professional and sustainable solution, the team from Zehnder Clean Air Solutions came past to introduce us to the concept of industrial air cleaning.”

Zehnder had developed an ideal filter combination for effective air cleaning. At its core are the unique Flimmer filters that reliably bind coarse and fine particulate matter in the air using electrostatic attraction with a high capacity for absorption. The air cleaning solution can be adjusted flexibly to the exact on-site needs.

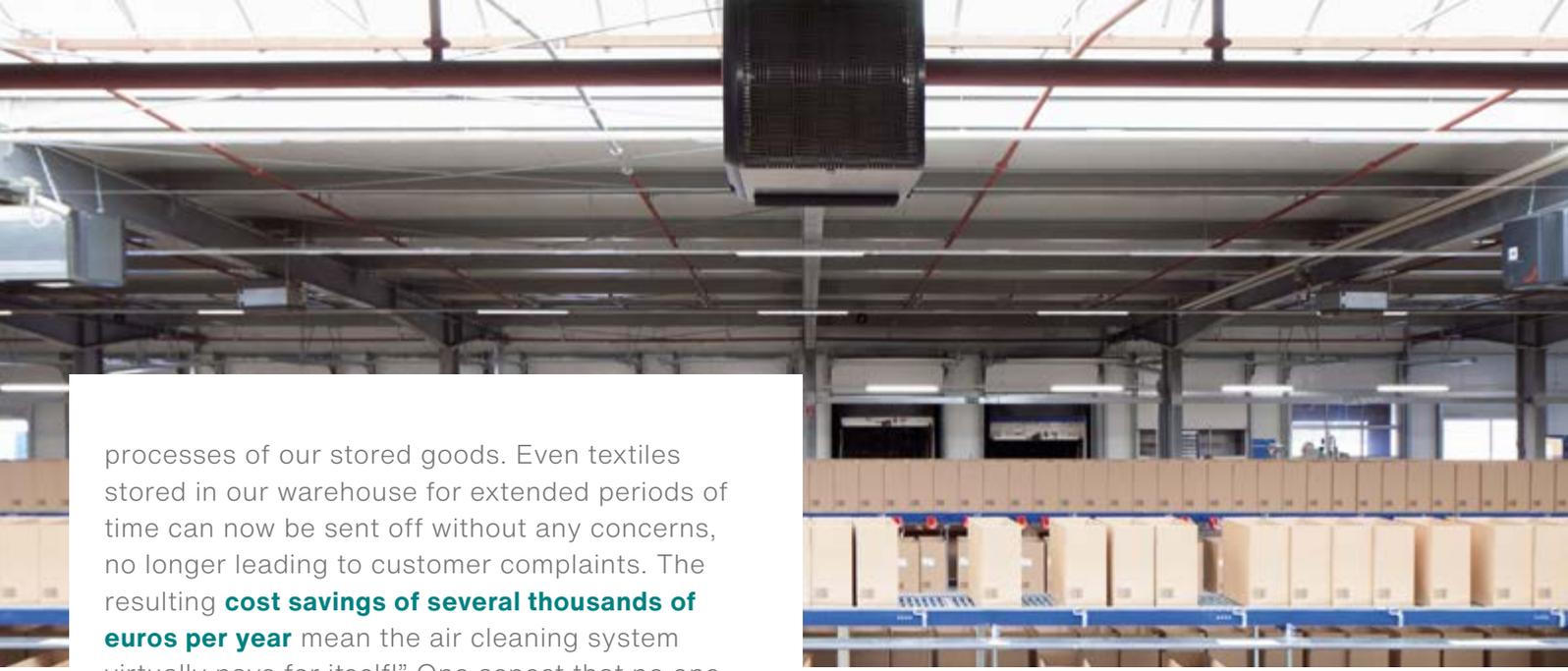
Eliminating the need for costly investments

The compelling performance levels presented for Zehnder Clean Air Solutions quickly piqued the interest of Gerhard Meyer. A visit to beverage wholesaler Göttsche Getränke GmbH & Co. KG in Hamburg only intensified the General Manager’s convictions. These facilities had been using Zehnder air cleaning systems for a year as an extremely effective solution to very similar storage dust problems. **“The positive results at Göttsche were clear evidence that Zehnder was the right partner for us as well. I was especially impressed with Zehnder’s flexible service model. That eliminated my need to invest in extensive and expensive alternative solutions;”** says Meyer.

Comprehensive dust level readings confirmed in black and white the urgency of finding an effective solution for the dust problem at NTL. The highest recorded values were more than double the legally defined limits of 50 µg/m³ for outdoor areas. Zehnder quickly developed a customized solution, tailored to the needs of the textile logistics specialist and covering a textile storage area of 25,000 m³. “This allowed Zehnder employees to begin the installation process on location without any complications and without disturbing our operations at all,” General Manager Meyer is pleased to report, adding: “The simple and secure installation of the devices on the ceiling means that there are no visual or audible disturbances.”

Manual cleaning reduced by 100%

Shortly after the installation process, the improvement in the air quality at NTL was noticeable and measurable. Analyses verified that dust levels had been reduced by nearly 80%, **in other words a complete success**, as Gerhard Meyer puts it: “The decrease in the amount of dust far exceeded my expectations. We have been able to completely eliminate the time- and cost-intensive cleaning



processes of our stored goods. Even textiles stored in our warehouse for extended periods of time can now be sent off without any concerns, no longer leading to customer complaints. The resulting **cost savings of several thousands of euros per year** mean the air cleaning system virtually pays for itself!” One aspect that no one expected beforehand were the positive reactions of employees, especially those who suffer from allergies or asthma. “Many of my employees have approached me to share how much better they feel as a result of the improved air quality,” explains Meyer. All of this has ultimately led to an increase in productivity at NTL. After a year partnering with Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, the company has experienced improvements in many ways: happier and more motivated staff, the elimination of intensive cleaning activities, and a great reduction in customer complaints.

Sustainability is also a top priority at Zehnder, and the manufacturer’s responsibility does not end with the installation of the devices. As a reliable service partner, Zehnder also takes care of the filter changes, maintenance and repairs – although the latter hardly seems necessary, as NTL General Manager Meyer recounts: “The devices have been running smoothly and trouble-free ever since the installation last year.” A separate conversion process to digitalised and automated work

procedures that was implemented at the same time also benefited from the massively improved dust values. It all ran completely smoothly, which would surely not have been the case with persistently high dust levels. NTL were so pleased with their experiences with Zehnder that they included industrial air cleaning in a later extension project right from the beginning.

Gerhard Meyer reiterates the successful cooperation with Zehnder by adding: **“Zehnder simply keeps its promises. That is a rarity in the business world.** I would personally recommend Zehnder air cleaning systems to any company with similar dust issues in goods storage in a heartbeat!”