AEROLYTE Systems
High Production Dry Stripping Solutions

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The term dry stripping was coined to convey the concept of abrasive blasting without the connotation of sandblasting to customers who were skeptical that blasting could be done to a delicate surface without altering its properties. Such non-aggressive media blasting is a mechanical process for cleaning, removing coatings from, and finishing delicate substrates without surface damage. Its use came into practice decades ago when plastic first emerged as a blast medium, being prized for its characteristic softness and ability to remove decals and coatings without altering an aluminum substrate. The impetus driving its development was the elimination of chemical stripping, a hazardous process.

AEROLYTE® engineers addressed the unique flow challenges of lightweight, low-density plastic media and developed specific equipment features for effectively handling the material. The dry-strip process now encompasses other modern media choices, such as starch and bicarbonate of soda, and is used to treat present-day sensitive surfaces, including composites.
High-Production Solutions for Industrial Cleaning and Finishing of Sensitive Surfaces

Ideal Method for Treating Delicate Surfaces

First developed by AEROLYTE® in the 1980’s as an alternative to chemical stripping of military aircraft, the use of non-aggressive media with specialized blast equipment is now recognized as the ideal method for removing aircraft coatings and specialized paint, de-flashing plastics, removing excess adhesive and overspray, treating wood surfaces and smoke damage, cleaning aluminum, and performing other maintenance and manufacturing processes.

Today, AEROLYTE® equipment and facilities are in use by hundreds of military and commercial operations worldwide. AEROLYTE® technology utilizes non-aggressive media, such as plastic, starch, baking soda, or even walnut shells to safely remove coatings. In some cases stripping can be accomplished five times faster than dual action sanders, with no risk of gouging, rounding corners, or damaging delicate surfaces. The ideal alternative to chemical stripping, dry stripping eliminates worker exposure to toxic substances, minimizes disposal costs of hazardous material, and is

Dry-Strip Rooms
the only stripping solution for modern composite aircraft materials, which cannot be treated with chemicals.

AEROLYTE® equipment offers a cost-effective, environmentally-friendly, and contained method of dry stripping. An experienced operator can strip a vehicle in less than two hours with no effect to the primer coat, or remove the paint for a cutting-edge composite-built airplane with no damage to the carbon fiber surface.

Non-Aggressive Media Maintains Surface Integrity

Widely available, non-aggressive media — such as plastic, bicarbonate of soda, and starch — are softer than sheet metal, chrome, plastic, and glass. Therefore, when properly used by an experienced operator, with proper blast angle and pressure, dry stripping with these soft media can eliminate the risk of damaging a surface.

Proven Performance

AEROLYTE® has furnished equipment to hundreds of companies for a wide variety of applications. AEROLYTE® dry stripping pressure-style cabinets are built with proven technologies and unique features for handling dry stripping media.

Economical Operation

In a dry strip pressure cabinet or booth, an AEROLYTE® recovery system fitted with a steep-angle blast machine and M-Section® recovery modules captures the dry stripping media*, separates it from the paint chips or other debris and dust, and makes it available for reuse. A dust collector traps dust and debris for disposal. AEROLYTE® equipment systems return more and cleaner media to the blast machine than any other dry stripping system. This efficiency of operation is the key to economical, safe, and effective dry stripping.

*Most dry strip media can be recycled; with the exception of bicarbonate of soda, a single-use medium.
Manually-Operated Dry Strip Cabinets

Production Pressure Cabinets for Plastic Blast Media

For stripping small components quickly and easily, AEROLYTE cabinets, in several enclosure sizes, are equipped with a pressure vessel, media reclaimer, and dust collector. Standard cabinets are available for one and two operators to let customers select the system that fits their application, environment, and budget.

Dry-Strip Rooms

Engineered Dry-Strip Rooms—Systems Tailored to Your Needs

Complete engineered systems for customer-specific applications are designed with partial or full-floor recovery, media reclaimers of suitable capacities, room and reclamation dust collection, load-rated floor grating, pressure vessels sized to handle varying workloads, air compressors, safety equipment and accessories. Specialized media separation including ferric material removal and vibratory classification can be included, as well as virtually any parts-handling mechanism, including robotics. Engineered installations can be sized for an infinite range of work-piece dimensions from components to full aircraft.

Preassembled Dry-Strip Room

The AEROLYTE preassembled dry strip room is a complete system that contains the dry strip process, and offers efficient media stripping and recycling. It arrives with ready-to-connect components, and easy hook up to air and electric. The system features steep-angle pneumatic M-section® recovery and reverse-pulse dust collection for a clean, efficient operation and rapid recycling of all usable media. A HEPA filter is available as an option.

High Performance Dry Strip Cabinets for Bicarbonate of Soda Blast Media

The use of bicarbonate of soda as a blast medium is on the rise as companies recognize its contributions in production operations where high-value, complex geometry components require cleaning. AEROLYTE has developed specialized blast technology able to perform in a production setting. AEROLYTE engineers have developed cabinet models, designed specifically for soda media. Because soda breaks down rapidly, visibility of the work surface is compromised. AEROLYTE soda cabinets feature ClearView™ ventilation, which provides operators excellent process visibility. All models have reverse-pulse dust collection. All HP models have a media drop-out chamber and reverse-pulse dust collection.
Options Plus

Manual cabinets can be ordered with a variety of standard options for noise control, ergonomics, parts handling, comfort, and customer- or application-specific uses.

- Noise-Reduction Arm-Ports
- Adjustable Height
- Door Safety Interlocks
- HEPA Filtration

Application Solutions

Designed for efficiency and economy, AEROLYTE dry stripping equipment comprises self-contained installations, single and multi-station manual dry stripping cabinets, and automated systems for large scale production requirements. Complimentary sample processing in the AEROLYTE lab serves to help refine customer process requirements, matching them to the equipment solution.

Dust Collectors

Automatically-cleaned reverse-pulse collectors with optional hopper help to reduce the frequency of dust drum emptying and to keep dust levels at a minimum, protecting employees and the environment. Additional optional HEPA filters further reduce particulate emissions in the work area.