

Vac-U-Max

Case History

Steeped in Tradition with Modern Sensibilities

Traditional Medicinals finds pneumatic conveying answer to move blended product gently.

Already a leader in sustainability, operating 70 percent from solar power, Traditional Medicinals the leader for 34 years in the herbal supplement arena, located in Sebastopol, CA, continues its commitment to preserving human resources by continually improving the work environment for its employees, striving for the most desirable and safe workplace.

While working on a major efficiency project that culminated in the building of new rooms for the blending area Mary Goff, Plant Manager, says that the company also wanted “to cut down the amount of lifting that the operators were doing manually in our production department.”

The operators were weighing individual hundred pound batches into barrels, taking those barrels up to the top level, and then dumping them into hoppers manually by hand. In search of a better method, the VP of Quality Control and the Site Manager researched open conveyor systems as an ergonomic solution for transferring the raw materials.

Traditional Medicinals uses pharmacopoeial grade herbs and one of its biggest concerns was how to transfer the herbs and blends from one area to another without breaking down the product or losing any of it.

“We did a lot of studies up front,” says Goff of choosing the right systems to transfer ingredients, “and a gentleman from the consulting firm we were working with on the efficiency project told us about Vac-U-Max.”

A pioneer in vacuum pneumatic conveying, Belleville, NJ-based Vac-U-Max specializes in the design and

manufacture of pneumatic systems and support equipment for the conveying, weighing, and batching of dry materials in the pharmaceutical, chemical, and food industries.



Pneumatic conveying systems have many advantages over open conveying systems such as belt or bucket conveyors. Ease of cleaning and the smaller footprint of pneumatic conveying systems are two of its biggest advantages.

In addition, pneumatic conveying systems are fully enclosed, protecting materials from air, dirt and waste. Because product does not escape from a pneumatic conveying system, particulates that can endanger or jam expensive equipment are prevented from entering the environment.



“One of our biggest concerns was the breakdown of the materials themselves and that’s one of the negatives that we kept hearing from our herb suppliers, but Vac-U-Max assured us that it wouldn’t. And they’ve proven that it is a very gentle way to move product,” says Goff.

In addition to creating a better ergonomic environment for the operators, Goff says “their system is more efficient too, and we are really happy with that side of it.”



Staff from Traditional Medicinals traveled to New Jersey to test equipment with 15 of the company’s raw materials in VAC-U-MAX’s state-of-the-art 6,000 square foot test and demonstration facility.

To learn more about how VAC-U-MAX pneumatic conveying systems can improve efficiency, ergonomics, preserve product integrity, or reduce costs, write to them at 69 Williams Street, Belleville, NJ 07109; call 1-800-VAC-U-MAX (800) 822-8629 or (973) 759-4600; e-mail info@vac-u-max.com; or visit their website www.vac-u-max.com.

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