

PCB Repair Depot Reduces Costs With New Cleaning Tools, Better Chemistries

Benchtop cleaning of PCBs is a tough challenge for process engineers. Dip-and-brush is a cheap but slow cleaning method that often leaves residues to migrate across circuits. Traditional high-pressure aerosols are convenient but can be expensive. MicroCare offers a better way to clean circuit boards.



There is a large PCB repair depot near Minneapolis (USA) that has tested this for themselves. This company cleans and repairs the “brains” of point-of-sale systems used in stores. These computers have a hard life but must function reliably despite the abuse they might receive. A POS system can get dropped on a floor or drowned in a sugary drink. When they fail, credit card transactions come to a screeching halt. This is a tough pill to swallow for retailers whose customers no longer carry cash.

For years, this company cleaned their boards with a traditional, high-pressure

aerosol. But consumption was high and the cleanliness was not great. MicroCare offered the patented TriggerGrip™ system along with Heavy-Duty Flux Remover – SuprClean™. After the test the process engineer noted, “The MicroCare product does a superior job. We have cut our [aerosol] usage to a quarter of what it was before.”

The TriggerGrip™ system allowed technicians to clean precisely without waste while lowering worker exposures to chemical fumes. It localizes the cleaning to the area of the repaired area of the PCB, which prevents flux from migrating across the board. The benchtop cleaning process becomes standardized, with a consistent quantity of liquid dispensed for each repair. With the TriggerGrip™ system and SuprClean™ “it is much less work to remove the flux,” the engineer added.

“You were right about the savings in the chemical usage,” the customer told Mike Helmer, the MicroCare sales representative. “I wish we had placed the order two years ago when you first tried to help us.”

About MicroCare

MicroCare Corp. is an industry-leading manufacturer of high-performance products used for critical cleaning, coating and lubrication. These products and tools improve quality, reduce operating costs and help protect the environment. Since 1983 MicroCare has helped clients improve their processes in industries as diverse as electronics assembly, telecommunications, aerospace and transportation, medical devices and other precision cleaning applications. MicroCare is constantly innovating new cleaning products and processes to help customers reduce costs and improve quality.

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Product Finishing Tests Replacements for nPB Aerosols

The August 2015 issue of *Product Finishing Magazine* analyzes the need to replace nPB solvents packaged in aerosols. While nPB is a highly effective cleaner, recent studies have found it has serious health effects. In 2013 the American Conference of Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) has reduced the safety rating for this cleaner to a level so low it precludes using it an aerosol spray.

The article covers real-world tests of safer alternatives. In the tests, a variety of oily automobile transmission parts were cleaned. Operators judged the cleaning effectiveness of the alternatives to be “very good” even when the residues were baked into place. Operators could not detect a difference between the parts cleaned with nPB and the parts cleaned with the new cleaners. This strongly suggests there is no need to use nPB any longer, and companies should minimize their legal liabilities by switching from nPB soon.

*For the full report,
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Steve Playdon Joins MicroCare in Europe

MicroCare is pleased to announce Mr. Steve Playdon has joined MicroCare Europe as a Regional Business Manager, working out of the MicroCare office in Leeds, UK. Mr. Playdon brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the electronics industry. After a successful sales career with a number of high-tech companies, he moved to PACE Europe in 2012 as their Export Sales Manager. He thoroughly understands electronics assembly, distribution management, the complexities of international sales, logistics and the market demand for quality products at competitive prices. He lives in the UK and speaks French and German.



Products Mentioned In This Newsletter



The Heavy-Duty Flux Remover – SuprClean™ is one of the best-selling aerosol cleaners from MicroCare. It is an extremely powerful defluxer, which makes cleaning fast and easy. The TriggerGrip™ system (see photos, Page 1) speeds cleaning and minimizes solvent consumption, which saves money. Both products are available from MicroCare distributors world-wide.