

EZ Screen With No Hydraulics Shakes Up Competition

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They say that necessity is the mother of invention, but sometimes it takes an eye for detail and a sharp mind. Just ask Al Skoropa of Argus Industrial Co., who developed the EZ Screen, used for removing impurities in dirt and other compounds. Over time, he had seen a variety of shaker screens in operation and had noticed what worked and what didn't. Some of the parts on some machines seemed inappropriate or just plain inefficient, so he decided to try something new.

By taking heed of what he saw and using a bit of ingenuity, he developed a more efficient, cost-effective machine that is also environmentally friendly. "Basically, I saw the opportunity for this machine," Skoropa said, "and I worked hard to bring it to the market." And the market seems to have taken notice. The EZ Screen entered the market with a price tag well below the \$60-thousand to 70-thousand price of most conventional shaker screens, making it a very attractive option for smaller businesses, as well as for the large-scale operations.

So far the EZ Screen has gotten a warm reception. Argus reports that the machine is operating in several states with promising results. Bill Gogel of K & B Transportation Inc. of Jacksonville, Florida, reports that he is extremely pleased with the performance of his EZ Screen. His landscape supply company has been in operation for more than 11 years, and he has worked with a variety of shaker screens; he said this one far exceeds the rest.

One of the big selling points for him was the lack of hydraulics on this new device. "I've used shaker screens in the past," Gogel stated, "but I found that with hydraulics, if a hose blew, we ended up losing a lot of time." Also, with a blown hose on a hydraulic system, fluid is almost always spilled on the ground, resulting in a hazardous spill and a detailed cleanup process. With only seven grease points and a diesel engine, low maintenance and environmental compatibility are key to the EZ Screen's success.

K & B uses the machine to provide premium top soil to their customers, mostly retailers and landscape contractors between Atlanta and Orlando, but the company also caters to local businesses and homeowners in the Jacksonville area. Although using the machine, K & B is considering renting it out. Because the EZ Screen is so efficient, mobile, and burns only 5.7 liters (1.5 gal.) of fuel every six hours, it is popular with individuals and small businesses that need the machine for only a limited time.

Of course, the EZ Screen cleans more than just dirt. It can also be used for cleaning up sand, gravel, mulch and rock. It is also mobile, coming with a 2,700 kilogram (5,952 lb.) tilt trailer and electric winch, all of which can be hauled behind a 0.45 metric ton (0.5 ton) pick-up truck.

The EZ Screen is a giant step forward in the evolution of shaker screen devices, offering more machine for a reasonable price. *CEG*