



Electronics Company Reduces PCB Cleaning Costs With New Tools and better Chemistries

Benchtop cleaning of PCBs is a tough challenge for process engineers. Dip-and-brush is a cheap but slow cleaning method that oftentimes causes residues to migrate across the circuit. Traditional aerosols are convenient and fast but can be expensive and wasteful. MicroCare offers a better way.

Take for example a high volume circuit board repair depot in the Midwest. Before switching to MicroCare products, technicians repaired and cleaned a large volume of circuit boards each day using a substantial amount of defluxing chemistry. The boards operators repair and clean are the brains of point-of-sale systems used daily in demanding environments. They must function reliably. A POS system can get dropped on a hard floor or drowned in a sugary drink. They have a hard life, and 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 repair depot cleaned these boards with a traditional, high-pressure aerosol product. But with no way to control the amount of defluxer sprayed on each board, consumption of this product was high and cleanliness was not great. MicroCare offered a free trial of its patented TriggerGrip™ cleaning system along with Heavy Duty Flux Remover SuprClean, and in the words of Jeff the depots process engineer, "The MicroCare product does a much superior job. We have cut our usage down to less than a quarter of what it was before."

With the TriggerGrip™ cleaning system and Heavy-Duty Flux Remover SuprClean™ "it is much less work to remove the flux," Jeff added. The TriggerGrip™ system allows technicians to clean precisely with no waste while lowering exposure to chemistry. It also localizes the cleaning effort to the area of the circuit board that has been repaired. This prevents solubilized flux and other contaminants from migrating across the board, a primary waste factor when using traditional aerosol cleaning methods without the TriggerGrip™. With it, a bench top cleaning process can be developed, and the same amount of chemistry can be dispensed for each cleaning job.

"You were right about the savings in the chemical usage," Jeff told MicroCare's sales representative, Mike Helmer. "Thank you for introducing us to this great product, I wish we would have placed the order two years ago when you first tried to help us."

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