

MUELLER

INNOVATIVE CUSTOM CUT SOLUTIONS

CUT TO LENGTH TUBE INSULATION

INTRODUCTION

Insulating parts are an important factor in HVAC efficiency, and HVAC makers rely on them to give their customers the best possible, most energy-efficient product. A leading HVAC manufacturer prides itself on an average SEER rating of 17.33, and SEER ratings as high as 22, for its air conditioning units, which are both higher than the industry average of 16.7 (toptenreviews.com/central-air-conditioning-units-trane-review). SEER stands for Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio, a measurement of how efficient cooling equipment is. Part of the process includes installing tubing as insulation around pipe components to enhance energy efficiency. The company reached out to Mueller because of their reputation for innovation and customer service, to help make insulating tube installation a more streamlined, cost-efficient part of overall HVAC installation.

THE SITUATION

This manufacturer's use of insulating tubing is a critical but time-consuming part of HVAC installation because the tubing arrives in bulk shipments of 6-foot lengths. The manufacturer and its installers would then be required to cut each piece of 6-foot tubing to fit each individual installation. This process consumed valuable time during installation, and created waste because

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Located in Charlotte NC, Mueller is a custom fabricator of flexible materials. Mueller has served Military and Government, HVAC, Health and Safety, and Lighting markets since 1940.

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ISO9001 Certified



most of the remaining pieces of tube could not be re-used. This method resulted in losing two elements critical to any well-run business: time and money.

THE SOLUTION

Mueller representatives were able to work with the manufacturer to find a solution that saved the company's time and minimized waste. Mueller engineers designed and built machines that automated the process of cutting the insulating tubes to any specification requested by the manufacturer.

Mueller was able to work with the tubing provider to acquire tubing in long, uncut bulk rolls to ensure cutting would minimize waste. The tubes were then processed by Mueller-designed and manufactured machines according to the exact specification requested by the manufacturer for each model of HVAC unit they offered.

THE OUTCOMES

Since insulating tubes are only needed as HVAC units are bought and installed, having pre-cut, ready-made insulating tubes available at time of purchase and installation reduced overall time of installation, which increased installer efficiency. The resulting reduction of waste also saved money and minimized impact on the environment. Unpredictable lead times for tubing needs are also mitigated by having pre-cut tubing lengths available when they're required.

Mueller's ability to work closely with a customer who has a unique need and finding an engineered solution that saves time and money is part of the "Mueller Way" of creative solutions, ingenious engineering, and pinpoint customer service.



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