



## SAFE CHEMICAL HANDLING

This uniform company has a large dry and wet cleaning plant in Texas which handles thousands of garments a day. In order to meet the demands of their job, they use large quantities of an array of cleaning solutions which come in 55 gallon drums and include 10% chlorine and various phosphate solutions. The chemicals are hazardous and the workers have to be very careful when transferring the liquids so as not to get splashed. Typically, this company purchased a \$40 pump which lasted about 3 months and then has to be thrown away and replaced. If there is not a replacement pump waiting when the pump breaks down, two men must then pick up and tip a 55 gallon container on its side to pour out the chemicals into the 5 gallon pail which is not only hard on the workers (a full 55 gallon container can weigh over 500 lbs) but very messy as it is hard to control the volume and the direction of liquid coming out of the hole in the top of the drum. Their chemical room was always a mess. The cost of replacing a \$40 pump is not just the \$40 – it also is the \$100 or so it costs to generate the purchase order and pay for the new pump, the actual clean up of the chemicals on the floor – translate that into worker time to mop up, absorption materials to mop up with, lost chemicals which cannot be used for cleaning purposes, throwing away of the materials and spilled chemicals which have to be disposed of properly, to say nothing of the pump which is discarded into the landfill. Actual cost of replacing a \$40 pump to this cleaning company is about \$200. If you replace one of these pumps 4 times a year, that is \$800 per barrel, and if you have 10 barrels of chemicals, that is \$8000 per year. I cannot put a price on the cost to the environment of discarding the \$40 pump and the cleanup nor can I put a price on the unsafe conditions for the workers. After years of frustration, the maintenance manager tried the new \$200 pump with the shop air adapter accessory which allows the pump to deliver 4.5 gallons per minute with only 2PSI. His workers can control the fluid flow with the remote tap set up and there is no splashing and no mess to clean up. Because the pump is made of chemical grade polypropylene with only 3 moving parts, it will last for years. Initial investment for 10 setups was \$3500. Cost savings the first year is \$4500, and \$8000 every year thereafter.



**Ensuring worker safety and environmental compliance has never been easier.**

184 West Tenth Street, New York, 10014  
Voice (646) 486 3636 Fax (212) 243 6070

