

Backing off Your Cleaner Tips During Belt Repair – Weighing the True Costs

We've all been there – a broken splice means a quick fix is needed, and usually, that means mechanical belt fasteners. However, the poor interaction between a mechanical fastener and tungsten carbide cleaner tips can lead to a severely damaged cleaner, meaning you sacrifice not only the cost of the splice, but your belt cleaners as well.

There are only two ways to resolve the issue of a broken splice, and both have their downsides:

1. Wait for a belt repair team to make it to the site and vulcanise your belt. The downside here is that waiting for the availability of a belt repair team could take up to two days, and the splice a further 72 hours. During this time, your conveyor belt system is completely inoperable, and product can't make it to its final destination to be exported and sold. Your site could be losing money by the minute.
2. Mechanically fasten your belt with the fasteners you bought and kept in storage for this exact situation. The belt splice will take around 60 minutes to complete with manual tools, and you have a sturdy and trusted solution to last until your next planned shutdown. The question then becomes, "What do I do with my primary and secondary belt cleaners if they're fitted with V tips?" As mentioned above, you run the risk of ruining your belt cleaners due to the amount of tension caused by the clashing of mechanical belt fasteners and v-tips.

If you want to continue to contribute to the throughput of your site, and get close to your throughput goals, the only option is to mechanically fasten your belt until the next planned shutdown. If you choose to back the tips of the primary and secondary cleaners off of your belt in order to save the cleaner from extensive damage and further damage to your belt, you also sacrifice any cleaning capability from your cleaners.

The carryback on your belt means you expose yourself to the risk of damage to your structure from severe belt mistracking, which may take implementation of trackers and trainers to correct, as well as hours of belt maintenance. The amount of product that may land on the floor could also create a serious safety concern, requiring manpower devoted to hours of clean up. And let's not forget the thousands of dollars of unusable product that has landed on your floor.

To avoid the multitude of issues that come with backing off your cleaner tips, change your cleaner tips to poly blades or c-tips to ensure you have a system that works perfectly in the interim while waiting for a planned shutdown. Both of these tip options will make certain that your cleaner and splice are compatible, eliminating the risk of potential hazards without the need to clean up carryback.

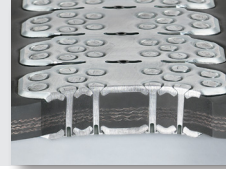
The cost of changing your tips may be an additional expense, but well worth it when you weigh the cost of over 72 hours of unscheduled downtime versus the cost of replacement tips and mechanical fasteners.



Optimising your system after a broken splice

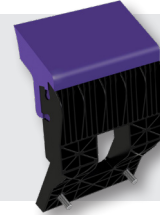
Flexco® Rivet Solid Plate Fastening System

The Flexco® Rivet Solid Plate Fastening System is recommended for high-tension applications, with a staggered, multiple-point attachment for a long-lasting hold. Ideal for use with straight-warped belts because rivets separate the fibers instead of displacing the carcass.



XF2 Tips for Flexco H-Type® Primary Cleaner

Flexco XF2 Tips are manufactured by Flexco using the highest grade polyurethane. The tips come individually segmented, and can be easily fitted to the cushion of any H-Type® primary cleaner that was previously fitted with tungsten tips as long as the arms.



Polyurethane Blades for Y-Type™ Secondary Cleaner

Another alternative to switching from tungsten to polyurethane is to switch to a tungsten C-tip. C-tips are made from more impact resistant carbide and also shielded by a steel body to deal with the additional friction of mechanical fasteners – while still maintaining cleaning performance.

