

A resource preserving production is key to us – both for environmental and for cost reasons. Therefore we focused on producing with minimal energy consumption when starting operations in our new premises in 2009.

Resource preserving production – what does it mean to us?

Injection moulding – a technology transforming granulated thermoplastic material into products – is an energy-intensive process. This cannot be denied. Our company requires as much energy as approximately 350 households. Therefore energy costs are our third most important cost category after personnel and material costs. Besides our desire to protect the environment we also have a strong commercial incentive to manage our production in an energy efficient way.

Our company move at the end of 2008 allowed us to reconsider everything we do. Like before our cooling system is connected to a heat recovery system, which during wintertime supports the heating of the administrative and social areas of our site. Also during winter the warm air from the cooling system is channeled into the storage building so it this does not require any heating, too.

We do not operate air condition, neither in production nor in office areas.

Compressor system: Our production process requires compressed air in various steps. When planning compressed air circuits for the new building we avoided any losses via the circuit flow in itself. When calculating the required capacities we realized that our subsidiary (form building and metal works) and we can jointly use just the smaller and newer supercharger only. The previously used second supercharger is not in use any longer and kept only as a backup system. Thus we were able to cut our energy consumption for compressed air to less than half.

As blind electricity utilizes the electricity grid unnecessarily and regrettably the generation of it cannot be avoided in our production process, utility providers charge major customers the blind power created by blind electricity. Therefore we invested in a compensation system, which we expect to amortize within 2–3 years. Nice for us and good for the environment, as the system works so efficiently that since its installation we have not been charged for any blind power.

Local Sourcing – sounds nice and means for us that we firstly search for suppliers close by. We are supported by our location in Westphalia which still maintains a healthy “Mittelstand” so that we usually find adequate partners within 50–100 km. The granulated material for our grips is entirely purchased within Germany. Colors are provided by a family-owned business in an adjacent county. This assures low-cost delivery to our site and improves our product’s CO²-footprint.

This also allows us to always operate at the latest state-of-the-art when it gets to harmful substances in plastic parts. No matter whether we need to comply with limits for PAKs (poly-aromatic carbon hydrides) or want to produce grips free off phthalates or latex – our suppliers cooperate very closely with us and adjust their recipes to any new norms and ordinances for harmful substances if needed.

Waste management and recycling – all scrap plastics (both gates and waste) is sorted separately by its kind, recycled and reused in production. We also separate foils and cardboards and treat them appropriately. Residual waste is therefore reduced to a minimum. Our main granulated material supplier delivers in large cardboard containers only. These are used upon consumption of the granulated material as packaging material for our products.

