



Michael McCartain factory manager, owners Mike and Kerri Lewin and Geoff Ebdon from NZ Duct&Flex next to the modular filter installed in September.

## wise spending for an immaculate workshop

When Mikes' Woodshop in Whangarei decided to upgrade their CNC machine, it was a natural progression that they would also upgrade their dust extraction capability. Owners Mike and Kerri Lewin contacted New Zealand Duct & Flex to see what they could do to solve the existing issues of excess floor dust, dust on the boards, (they had to be vacuumed before being taken off the bed), as well as staff being in a work environment that the current portable dust extractor just didn't have the beef for.

The manufacturers of educational and commercial office furniture, had purchased a second hand flat bed CNC machine about 8 years ago. "However", explained Mike, "technology and our own requirements had overtaken this older machine, complete with it's single bag extractor and with the installation of a 'state of the art' Holz-Her ProMaster 7123 double bed model, we could not carry on with the current system."

Geoff Ebdon from NZ Duct & Flex suggested a 3 unit modular filter with reverse air cleaning for the 42 filter bags. The 6 exit collection bags and a high volume fan were to be a perfect solution. All components including the filter, fan and filter bags are from Danish based company JKF Industri. Manufactured from galvanised Swedish steel, many features on the filter including large inspection doors for easy access to the filter bags, the convenient viewing window and reverse air cleaning were ideal in price and performance for this installation.

"Modular baghouses may be one of the oldest filter methods in the industry, but they are still often a very cost effective solution for high air volumes and heavy dust loads in the wood working industry," confirmed Geoff Ebdon.

Unlike the 'baghouses' of the past, these models are now available with cleaning mechanisms like

the reverse air used here – critical as owners and council inspectors become more focussed on the environment and safe working practises. Reverse air cleaning also makes clogging of the bags rare and they last much longer.

The capacity is excellent for the high volumes of board being processed – the 6 bags are emptied approximately every three weeks, however if Mike Lewin chooses to expand his workshop then he has around 25% existing extra capacity to play with or can add more filter modules.

Mike was surprised how much dust was collected in the bags. "It makes you realise how much dust we were sweeping up around the factory before we had this improved system installed." The design allows for change to a rotary valve exit for collection, dropping the dust into a bin, in the future if required. This endorses the real 'value for money' concept that NZ Duct & Flex offer.



Not a spec of dust to be seen near this CNC machine.



End inspection viewing panel.

Like supplier JKF Industri, NZ Duct & Flex promotes the principle of large volume-low pressure operation for filters. "We give you a bigger filter for the money, it works less hard and the benefit to the customer is low



Factory manager Michael McCartain in a workshop environment to be proud of.

wear on the filter bags, the longer life saving money on replacement and almost eliminating blockage problems." says Ebdon.

Mike's Woodshop Ltd originated 16 years ago and has moved several times up until the last move in April 2007 when they designed and built their own premises in South End Avenue, Whangarei. With this latest refit, Mike said he appreciated the way he was able to deal with just one company who specialise even down to a unique CNC flex product for the new CNC router, and who could provide the wide range of modular duct and bends required to link to the new filter from the various other machines. NZ Duct were happy to reuse existing duct and they arranged the filter installation. "We were able to further save cost by doing a lot of the fit out ourselves due to the modular type ducting system from New Zealand Duct & Flex" confirmed Mike.

At first Michael McCartain, the factory manager was concerned at the placement of the JKF manufactured fan just outside his office window - but he was pleasantly surprised at how quiet the Danish unit is when running.

Kerri Lewin said she and Mike have always looked at spending their machinery dollar wisely and purchasing the best machinery to future proof their production for years to come. "The new filter and CNC machine, along with a Holzher Sprint 1315 edgebander

with a Doucet return table, and an Altendorf WA8 dimension saw, has re-inforced to us that having modern machinery takes advantage of the efficiencies and cost savings in producing our final product."

In summary, the 3½ year old building is a credit to the high standards and reputation of the company - Michael McCartain proudly boasts that he has the best filter to keep an immaculate workshop. The extraction system keeps both the machine and panels spotless, which helps in processing through the edger and onto the assembly line.

In other words, the dust is 'in the bag', and that's where it should be.

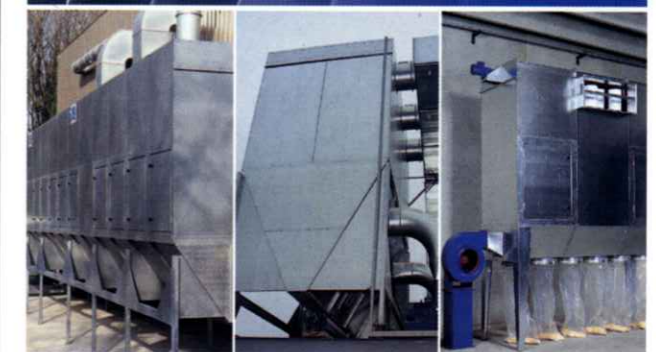
For more information contact New Zealand Duct & Flex, freephone 0508 69 38 28, www.nzduct.co.nz email info@nzduct.co.nz

Or Mikes' Woodshop 09 430 8000, www.woodshop.net.nz

## Looking for a Complete Dust Solution?

- Modular Baghouse Filters
- Experience and backing of Major European Manufacturer
- Range of Sizes to suit all Installations

## New Zealand DUCT & FLEX



Freephone 0508 NZ DUCT  
(0508 69 38 28)

13F Saleyards Road, Otahuhu, Auckland  
Ph: 09 276 8020 Fax: 09 276 8070  
Email: info@nzduct.co.nz

[www.nzduct.co.nz](http://www.nzduct.co.nz)