

**MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED**

# Lighting Upgrade a Logical Component To Achieving Lean Manufacturing Goals

An insider's look at how the right LED lighting solution supports lean initiatives  
with Tony Lukas – Chemist for Molded Dimensions LLC, Port Washington, WI



“I was impressed  
with Wasmer’s **depth of  
technical expertise.**  
They really **taught us  
a lot about lighting**  
in general and  
LEDs in particular.”

## SITUATION

As we were nearing the end of 2019, it was getting close to time to change out the fluorescent lights at our rubber molding and metal preparation facility. We were looking to upgrade our lighting and hopefully save some costs as part of our lean initiative. In addition, we had capital available as we were approaching our year end, so it seemed like the ideal time to look into lighting options. Of course, we faced some significant challenges.

### > **Aging facility presented technical issues**

The plant itself is more than 50 years old and has been added onto a couple of times over the years. That meant there were wiring inconsistencies from one part of the plant to the next. Just on the initial walk through of our plant, the Wasmer team pointed out some code issues that should be addressed. Of all the potential vendors we had look at the job, Wasmer was the only one to notice them. That expertise and eye for detail made me feel confident that they were the right team for the job.

### > **We lacked internal expertise when it came to lighting**

Originally, we were thinking we could just replace the fluorescent bulbs with more efficient LEDs. But it became apparent pretty quickly that we needed new fixtures. And a direct one-for-one replacement may not be the best way to go for our long-term goals because equipment on the floor had been rearranged since some fixtures were put in place.

### > **Rubber production also poses its share of environmental challenges**

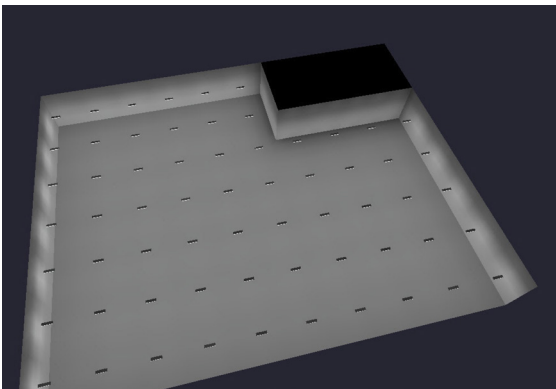
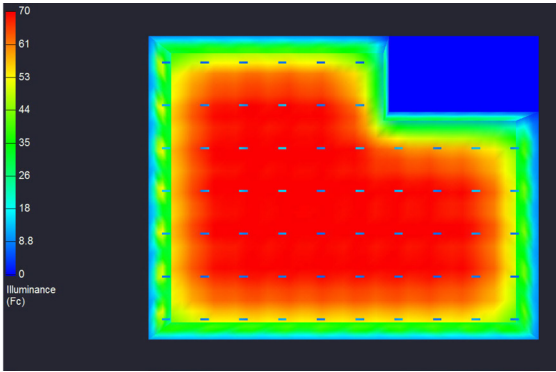
During production, the rubber emits Sulfur Dioxide vapors as it cools. The Wasmer team informed us that the vapors can be particularly corrosive to LED fixtures. So, we had to be sure we got fixtures that would be up to the job.

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# A Solid Foundation for a Brighter Future



“LED lighting was  
**the right fit**  
for our lean manufacturing  
initiative. And Wasmer was  
**the right team**  
to make it happen.”

## SOLUTION

Wasmer wants to make sure you get precisely the right solution for your particular needs. That's why part of their process involves generating 3D photometric layouts. We found these incredibly helpful, because they enabled us to get a better idea of just how the placement and fixture choice would impact the candlepower output on the plant floor.

They also utilized Military-Grade LEDs from Tactik Lighting, which featured sealed designs that are shown to keep Sulphur Dioxide vapors out more effectively than other LEDs.

From purchase order to installation, the whole process only took a couple of weeks, but the results of the changeover will have a lasting impact on our lean manufacturing.

### > Proper lighting helps optimize quality

We have a reputation for delivering precision components. From an operator's standpoint, quality decisions are made on a minute-to-minute basis and visual inspection to detect defects is a big part of that process. The difference in the amount of light on the plant floor has been pretty dramatic. So that's a huge win for us, especially when you consider we're running 3 shifts, 24 hours a day, 5 days a week.

### > More inviting appearance important to making a good impression with customers

General clean-up is part of our lean journey. And the better we can see, the cleaner we can make everything. Plus, customer tours are a big part of our sales process. Typically, we have 2-3 customer tours a week. And now the plant is so much brighter and more inviting. That appearance is one more thing the customer can check off their list when considering us as a potential supplier.

### > Maintenance is thrilled with longer projected life of the LED fixtures

With the fluorescents, we were on a 5-year schedule for replacement. With the new LEDs we're looking at closer to 10 years.

### > Wasmer even handled our Focus On Energy rebates for us

The projected payback on the LEDs, meant they were clearly the way to go for us. To make sure we got every advantage out of the lights, Wasmer handled the paperwork involved for our energy rebates. That can be such a hassle, so they really took care of some headaches for me.

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