

# Surface Prep in Cotton Mill Brown Stock Washer Tanks

*The Sponge-Jet® abrasive blasting system and Sponge Media™ abrasives were used to strip caustic deposits and failed coating from Black Liquor Tank*



One of many activities during a 48-hour maintenance shutdown in the purification tower of a cotton fiber plant entailed cleaning, stripping and recoating a brown stock washer tank. The coating system in the tank, typically subjected to temperatures of 93°C (200°F), was failing and the carbon steel substrate had corrosive pitting. Industrial Materials & Services, Inc. (IMS), specializing in cotton and paper mill maintenance, was hired to strip and recoat. Facility engineers specified removal of the coating, a Near White, NACE No.2 (SSPC SP-10) surface cleanliness and a 75-125 micron (3-5mil) profile.

The contractor, who was given ten hours to blast and coat the tank, chose to use Sponge Media™ abrasive over conventional abrasives due to the following process characteristics:

## ■ Protect Sensitive Equipment -

Mill management feared abrasive dust could migrate to surrounding equipment, causing potential failure. Sponge Media abrasives reduce dust as much 99%\* by entrapping contaminants before they become airborne.

■ **Fast Setup & Cleanup** - Other trades continuing to work nearby, along with the critical time constraint, meant blast setup and cleanup had to be quick and easy. The low dust and rebound characteristics of Sponge Media abrasives allowed the tank to be easily covered and sealed for containment, which simplified cleanup.



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[www.Spongejet.com](http://www.Spongejet.com)  
or call **603-610-7950**  
to learn more about the  
Sponge Blasting System

IMS, Inc. blasted and coated the 65m<sup>2</sup> (700ft<sup>2</sup>) tank overnight. By blasting with Silver Sponge Media™ abrasives in the purification tower with other trades working below uninterrupted, the plant remained “dust free.” The project supervisor was thrilled with the quality and timeliness of the project.