



# Kaizen Blitz

## Kaizen Blitz: Immediate results

Does it seem like every customer is demanding dramatically shorter lead times? Did you get hit with a flood of orders and are scrambling to meet them? Is there a production line that's giving you trouble at a critical time? You need a solution quickly. You don't have time to wait. What can you do?

WMEP has the answer and the answer is a Kaizen Blitz. Kaizen is continuous, incremental improvement of an activity to create more value with less waste. Kaizen Blitz refers to a team approach to quickly tear down and rebuild a process layout to function more efficiently. WMEP's lean experts can help you quickly analyze the situation, identify the problem, and come up with a fast, effective solution.

### Valley Packaging

Valley Packaging of Madison, WI received a new packaging order that overwhelmed their capabilities. To make matters more challenging, communication was difficult with 60 Spanish-speaking employees. Three overtime shifts and working six days a week were still resulting in higher error rates in quality and escalating costs. They needed to reassess their entire line.

That's when Valley Packaging turned to WMEP for help. Employee input through a Kaizen Blitz inspired the kickoff to change. After implementation of several Lean principles such as Setup Reduction, Line Layout, and Visual Workplace, machines were improved, workspaces were rearranged, and work functions were adapted so that one worker's downtime could be spent helping another worker prep materials.

### Benefits of Kaizen

- ▶ **Common sense:** A Kaizen Blitz means taking the time to do the things that should be done.
- ▶ **Quick:** A Kaizen Blitz takes one or two days, with followed by continual improvement efforts. Results are seen within a week or two.
- ▶ **Practical rather than theoretical:** This is not an academic exercise - it's a practical way to quickly make significant improvements.
- ▶ **Cost benefits are quickly realized.** As the process becomes more efficient, cost benefits are quickly apparent.

The end-result was a dramatic improvement in their process. The labor-to-sales ratio went from 128% to 40% with a matter of weeks! As Jim Auchue, Director of Valley Packaging said, "We felt the results right away."

Our experts have years of practical manufacturing experience in Kaizen Blitz and many other areas of Lean Manufacturing. In addition, WMEP works with you throughout the process from development to implementation, because we want to make sure you get results.

**Improve quickly. Increase productivity. Reduce waste.**  
**Call WMEP at 877.856.8588 for more information.**

