

Affordable Rental
with
No Upfront Cost.

2024 CASE STUDY

Affordable Solvent Recovery for Flexographic Printing

Customer: Columbia Packaging Group

Location: California, USA

Industry: Flexographic Printing

Unit Installed: Solvent Saver Flexo 500
(Rental – Share the Savings Program)



The Challenge

Columbia Packaging Group, a flexographic printing company based in California, produces high volumes of printed packaging using solvent-based inks.

Their process generates a waste stream composed of 95% solvent (primarily 80% n-Propanol and 20% Propyl Acetate) and 5% ink residue, totaling up to 500 gallons per day.

Previously, Columbia Packaging Group relied on off-site disposal and frequent solvent purchases, leading to high operational costs, regulatory reporting burdens, and environmental impact. The company needed a high-throughput, automated, and safe solution that could recover solvent efficiently while minimizing downtime and operator involvement.

The Solution

Maratek installed the **Flexo-500 Solvent Recovery System** under its **Share the Savings program**, which offers solvent recovery equipment with no capital expenditure and a per-gallon subscription model.

Key features included:

- Automated recovery of up to 500 gallons/day
- 85–90% recovery rate from flexographic ink waste
- Allen Bradley PLC with remote access and data logging
- Built-in Clean-in-Place (CIP) system for easy maintenance
- Nitrocellulose-safe design with glycol heating and water deluge failsafe
- Class I Division I Group D certification for hazardous environments

All shipping, installation, training, and support were included, with Maratek providing ongoing monitoring and maintenance throughout the subscription term.

The Result

- **Cost Savings:** Columbia Packaging Group significantly reduced solvent purchasing & disposal costs
- **Operational Efficiency:** Fully automated cycles with minimal operator input
- **Safety & Compliance:** Certified for hazardous environments & nitrocellulose handling
- **Sustainability:** Reduced hazardous waste shipments & improved solvent reuse
- **Scalability:** Flexible subscription model with predictable monthly costs

Why Maratek?

With over 50 years of experience and 1,500+ systems installed, Maratek is trusted by flexographic printers for its high-performance solvent recovery solutions. The Flexo-500 helped Columbia Packaging Group Bags reduce costs, improve safety, and streamline operations without the burden of upfront investment.

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