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INNOVATION IN DIAMOND CLEANING

CLEANING DIAMONDS CAN BE A DIRTY AND DANGEROUS BUSINESS. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE, THANKS TO A REVOLUTIONARY NEW CLEAN-TECH SOLUTION.

Traditionally, nitric and sulfuric acids, rubber-coated splash aprons, gloves, safety glasses, acid storage cabinets and boiling rooms are all part and parcel of the boiling process used to clean diamonds at the end of the manufacturing process. Acid is not only expensive to manage and dispose of, but also problematic to work with, and it exposes employees to a range of hazards should anything go wrong.

While cleaning diamonds is an essential element of the manufacturing process, there is an environmentally friendly, cost-effective alternative solution that eliminates the need for acid and the unnecessary risk to your employees' health.

"The problem with acid is that it is acid," says Ofer Babluki, who runs Diacore's diamond manufacturing plant in Windhoek, Namibia. "Workers need to wear masks and special clothing to work with it. We also need special chimneys for fumes. If a bottle of acid was ever broken, it would be a disaster. While working with acid during our manufacturing process, I always felt that if something happened, the potential for my workers to get really hurt was very high."

Aware of the complications and dangers involved in working with acid, Babluki turned to a different solution when it came to boiling the diamonds at Diacore's Namibia plant — a solution offering an acid-free cleaning process that is simple, quick, environmentally friendly and, most importantly, risk-free.

Ice Stones offers an easy-to-use, ecological, cost-effective and efficient way to clean diamonds. It uses acid-free materials, providing the ultimate protection to the worker, the stone and the environment. Notably, during the cleaning process, the stone remains stable, reducing the chances of chipping to the culet and girdle.

"We went from 90% danger to 0% danger," says Babluki. "The end result is as good as boiling with acid, but with no risk to the workers."

The efficiency and ease of use of the Ice Stones solution means workers are now able not only to boil more stones, but also to boil stones at any time during the process. "If the polisher wants to boil a stone at any time during the manufacturing process to see the stone better, they can," says Babluki.

This exceptional clean-tech, acid-free solution is good for both rough and polished diamonds and is the safest, easiest, most cost-effective way to put sparkle in your goods. ■

HOW ICE STONES DIAMOND CLEANING WORKS

Cleaning diamonds does not have to mean the use of hazardous materials, such as acid, that can endanger the health of our employees and make the process complicated. The clean-tech solution from Ice Stones provides a cost-effective and simple alternative in a few easy steps:

1. Place diamond together with acid-free cleaning material inside an Ice Prime machine, and run it for 30 minutes.

2. Finish off the job using water, vinegar and a simple diamond cloth.

3. Uses acid-free materials, protecting the worker, the stone and the environment.

For more information visit *www.ice-stones.net*