



DUST BUSTERS

A ground-breaking feat of design and engineering by Napier based DSH (Dust Suppression Hopper) Systems is helping to clean up the world's industrial loading sites.

Trevor Schwass was working at a fertiliser firm in Napier when he was commissioned to design a system that would stop the issue of dust emissions from hoppers when product was being bulk loaded.

For years, the health and safety of employees working with dry, granular goods had been compromised by inefficient loading systems, not to mention the effects of dust on the environment.

After months of design work, Trevor came up with an ingeniously designed hopper, with no need for electricity or internal moving parts, that would allow for faster, cleaner loading of trucks and rail cars. The innovative DSH System loading spout concentrates the stream of product into a solid column, minimising dust outfall, saving wastage and contributing to a safer and healthier working environment.

The effects on the environment were so significant that the company is still



With the DSH System



Without the DSH System

For years, the health and safety of employees working with dry, granular goods had been compromised by inefficient loading systems, not to mention the effects of dust on the environment.

questioned over the validity of the images on the DSH website - eight years after the company first went into production.

"People ask us if the photos have been photo-shopped, because of the incredible difference between using the DSH system and not using it," marketing manager Judi Schwass says.

Initially a polyethylene material was used to make the hoppers; however with demand for safe transferral of more abrasive products including soybeans, steel versions have also been added to the portfolio.

The ability to work closely with local sheet metal firm Ramage, has allowed Trevor's unique designs to be followed, to the smallest detail.

"It's critical that the quality of the workmanship is world class," Trevor says.

The hoppers are crated and airfreighted to clients and agents in destinations around the globe including Europe, South America and Asia. Sales efforts into North America have been rewarded with hoppers now being used there to transfer grain, stock feed, salt, sand and fertiliser.

Judi and Trevor are able to operate the business from their home office, set on 10 acres in the picturesque, rural setting of the Poraiti hills, just minutes from Napier city.

"We find it easier to operate here, with no traffic issues, plus we can enjoy the Hawke's Bay lifestyle – including the wine," Trevor adds.

"We have excellent services here, including the best legal services for our international distributors and agent's agreements."

"Plus, we are able to keep overheads low and we have absolutely no issues with space."

Story: *Kate de Lautour* Photos: *Tim Whittaker*