

Blowtherm USA is Helping Several Ohio Shops Paint 12-15 More Cars Daily—Add It Up!



by Autobody News Staff

At *Monroe's Collision Center, Inc.*, with four shops in Ohio, the company has been built around the concept that "family and employees come first." It's a mantra that has worked well for Owner **Kevin Monroe**, General Manager **Robert Muck** and the 65 collision repair professionals in their crew.

Another part of the company's success story includes Blowtherm USA paint booths and mixing rooms in all of its three collision-only locations, with booths in two of them and double-heated prep areas in two.

The production at Monroe's Collision Center, Inc., is impressive, fixing 600 vehicles every month. All within close proximity to each other, their locations are strategically situated, which enables the company to share work to hit their numbers without deviation.

Monroe's Collision has been able to paint 12-15 more vehicles monthly since acquiring its Blowtherm booths, thanks to their amazing capabilities when it comes to curing cars.

"These booths are making our lives much easier because their flash-off times are better than I've ever seen," Muck said. "We never require additional air movement and the finished product is consistently top-notch. We have 10 painters and all of them have told us that the Blowtherm USA booths have helped them to do a better job, which is what you always want from any piece of equipment."

With so many vehicles coming through their facilities day after day, there is no margin for error, so precision and reliability are key at Monroe's Collision Center. "We're getting outstanding productivity from a premium product," Monroe said. "In this business, comebacks can cripple you and by using these booths, it's never a concern."

Monroe has nothing but good things to share about the level of service and follow-through that he has received from his Blowtherm USA distributor, **Ron and Carol Baylor** of Tri-State Spray Booths. "When it comes to a paint booth, you need someone who is available all the time because you nev-



Painter **Luke Rucker** and Paint Assistant **Tyler Barrett** masterfully prep and paint nearly two dozen vehicles daily in *Monroe's* Blowtherm Double Downdraft Prep Booth.

er know what can come along to slow down the process. But, with these Blowtherm booths, we haven't had any issues, to be honest. You turn them on and they perform—what more can anyone ask?"

Blowtherm USA and Tri-State Spray Booths both played an integral role in helping Monroe's Collision Center, Inc., when it comes to their development process by assisting them during some critical decision points along the way. "We updated all of our paint departments with new spaces to accommodate our growth and Blowtherm USA has been an important partner in the overall layout and set up. Our system works seamlessly and we credit much of it to the people at Blowtherm USA and Tri-State Spray Booths."

The training that's involved with their Blowtherm USA booths has also set up Monroe's paint crew to excel, Muck said. "Our crew is all cross-trained, which means we have preppers who are also painters and vice versa, so that when a guy is sick or working on something else, they can all step in without slowing things down. The training they received from Blowtherm USA gave them all of the information they needed and that's why we're so efficient, I believe. They learned the basics and refined their skills as well, and we have all benefitted from it."

When it was time for installing their booths, the process was easy, without any customization or unforeseen issues, Monroe

said. "We didn't have to purchase anything additional and all of the installations went like clockwork. They did what they said and we didn't have to do anything special to get them done. They took it off our plate and set us up perfectly. At our Portsmouth location, we have our heated prep area in the front of our booths, which accommodates our volume and our flow flawlessly."

When it comes to acquiring a major piece of equipment like a spray booth, the people at Monroe's Collision Center, Inc., expect durability, longevity and reliability. "There are basic three elements with any booth—electricity, air and gas—and our booths from Blowtherm USA check all three boxes neatly," Muck said. "We are confident that we are going to be able to use these booths for at least the next 30 years, and when we start to expand, Blowtherm USA booths will be part of the plan."

The company is truly a family business, with a lot of people who are related working for the shops. Kevin's daughter **Erin Strickland** and her husband **Michael** run one of their locations, and many of the company's top managers have relatives working in the business.

Expansion is definitely in their future plans, Monroe said proudly. "We do have growth in mind and Blowtherm USA will be with us. Rather than acquiring new shops, we want to add space to all of our locations to fix more cars."

Monroe's Collision Center, Inc.

Locations:

Portsmouth, OH—(740) 354-5572

Chillicothe, OH—(740) 774-1036

Jackson, OH—(740) 288-1313

www.monroescollision.com

Company At A Glance...

Type: Collision Repair

Facility Employees: 65

In Business Since: 1994

Number of Locations: Four

Combined Production Space:

50,000 square feet



Great finishes start in the prep area with the skills of painters **Lee Poplin** and **Andy Avery**, at *Monroe's* Chillicothe.



Blowtherm mix rooms are equipped with lighting, ventilation, one-wing personnel door with window and thrust door handle.

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