

# Two gray-to-white cement silo cleanings

Cemex Spain



Cemex needed an industrial-grade solution with guaranteed results as they were converting a grey cement silo into storing white cement. The change-over put high demands on the ability to effectively clean out the silo to remove all traces of grey cement. "Blancon's short cleaning time, understanding of our needs, quality and professionalism" characterized experience at Cemex.

- Mr. Javier A. Martinez, Projects & Logistics, Cemex Spain

## Preparations for Silo Content Change-over

Cemex, a world-wide leader in the cement manufacturing industry, needed to fully clean out a 2,000 ton grey cement silo to start using it for white cement. As such, the cleaning requirements were very demanding with no tolerance for residual material. Furthermore, given the environmental humidity of the location, the silo contained build-ups on walls and ceilings that were very hard.

Cemex had previously tried to use a whip-based system, but, as most cement manufacturers are finding out, *gyro-whip* systems lacked the power to effectively and quickly clean the silo. Traditional methods with climbers were ruled out given the inherent danger of putting people into the silo as well as extremely slow pace of cleaning. Cemex needed a powerful solution that could do a quality job under the shortest possible maintenance window – requirements that only Blancon could meet.

## Silo Cleaning Project Delivering Above Expectations

Blancon fully deployed its powerful silo cleaning methodology on behalf of the client. The service, which clearly set Blancon apart from other providers, included Blancon managing all aspects of cleaning, to actually fully being able to solve the problem (other solutions had proven ineffective), to delivering fast, quality results within the scheduled maintenance window. With a focused effort, Blancon effectively helped Cemex fully clean out the grey cement silo, partnering with Cemex to fully manage the processes, from planning to cleaning certification.

In fact, the job was so successful that Cemex asked Blancon to tackle another silo in the port terminal that had been completely blocked for eight years, due to build-up in humid and damp coastal conditions. The silo had a capacity for 2,000 tons that the client also wanted to use for white cement, but the silo was completely blocked, or rather plugged, by 1,300 tons of grey cement.

The effort started as a trial to verify Blancon's ability to tackle a problem that other solutions had not even been able to make a dent in. Far exceeding the client's expectations, Blancon not only made a dent but rather cut and bored through the build-ups at a rate that had not even been thought feasible by the client.

At Blancon, we know we can deliver silo cleaning results in time-frames that leave whip-based solutions and traditional methods behind in the dust. Contact us and we will tell you how we can bring the most effective silo cleaning services to your benefit.

## At a Glance

### Objectives

- ▶ Cleaning out grey cement from all surfaces, including ceiling, from two silos to prepare for use for white cement
- ▶ Break-up of very hard cement
- ▶ Industrial vacuuming of the floor to facilitate change-out of air cushions
- ▶ Safe cleaning, eliminating the need for human entry into the silo
- ▶ Removal of 1,300 tons of build-up

### Silo Characteristics

- ▶ Number of silos: 2
- ▶ Capacity: 2,000 tons
- ▶ Content: Grey cement
- ▶ Construction: Cement
- ▶ Height: 22 meters
- ▶ Diameter: 12 meters

### Services Provided

- ▶ Overall project management
- ▶ Silo cleaning and build-up removal
- ▶ Industrial vacuuming

### Project Site

- ▶ Buñol (Valencia), Spain
- ▶ Marine terminal

## About Blancon

Blancon is a leading silo cleaning service provider, drawing on a broad range of world-wide, successful projects at leading cement manufacturers. We serve clients in all geographies and stand ready to on short notice deploy teams to address your planned or emergency silo cleaning needs. Blancon's approach is to partner with our clients to provide lasting solutions that work the best for our clients and their unique needs. Clients attest to our cost-efficient and professional solutions, as is evidenced through our high repeat business and years of working with the same clients. We bring our years of experience to each client engagement and always dedicate our best professional efforts.

[silos.blancon.net](http://silos.blancon.net)

[silos@blancon.net](mailto:silos@blancon.net)

(+34) 91.723.15.02