



Our industry says that 90% of quality issues are related to poor surface preparation. It would be impossible to quantify that number, but most troubleshooters will agree that ineffective cleaning and activation are among the most common root causes of plating failures. Knowing that effective surface preparation has such a strong impact on consistency and quality, the conversation needs to shift toward how operators can proactively ensure parts are properly activated before reaching the plating tank.

One of the biggest contributing factors to cleaning issues is that most processors do not have





The third thing that operators can do is to familiarize themselves with the tank's appearance as they age. Acid tanks will typically darken as they build up metals, but some cleaners may become cloudier with age, and others may fade in color. Setting up regular recharges based on a calendar is a good start to solution process control, but eventually this will need to be updated as new data is gathered and the line reacts to changing workflow volumes. A common mistake that shops make is to keep maintenance schedules and rinse flow rates the