

Customer Profile:

- Major Appliance Manufacturer

Application:

- Kitchen Appliances

Challenges:

- Multiple molds and steps
- Improve mfg. process
- Manual labor
- Reduce cycle time



"It was amazing what A1 was able to accomplish! We were able to reduce costs in so many ways while improving quality. The program was so successful we purchased 6 more molds."
- Project Engineer

Challenges:

A major appliance manufacturer had a two shot plastic component in their dishwashers that was in need of a manufacturing improvement and very costly to produce. Overall goal was to reduce the number of molds required, eliminate seams on the soft shot, reduce cycle times and eliminate manual operations.

A1's innovative engineering accepted the challenge.

Solution:

A1's first objective when designing the new tool was to create a process to eliminate the 4 vertical seams on the soft shot. This was accomplished by removing the previous 4 slides and utilizing 3 stripper plates, eliminating all seams.

The next objective was to improve the mold efficiency. The first step was to engineer and manufacture a single mold capable of facilitating both the hard shot and soft shot. This was a consolidation of two independent different molds. Through mold consolidation, robotics were able to replace two mold operators, reduce set-ups, and reduce work-in-process.

A1's innovative solutions not only improved part quality, but also compressed the molding press cycle time from 93 seconds (58 sec. hard shot mold, 35 sec. soft shot mold) down to 37 seconds in a single mold! A 60% reduction!

A1 exceeded the challenge with our innovative engineering!