

Whangamata Woodworks and Empower Factory Productivity & Scheduling Software - Case Study

(Whangamata, New Zealand)(1/5/2020)

Empower Manufacturing and Engineering Software - Using Tablets on Your Factory Floor.
For progressive Joiners, Engineers and Other Manufacturers



“Empower has conservatively reduced our labour times and labour cost on jobs by 15 to 20%. Empower also allows to budget our labour and quote considerably more accurately. Both reducing labour cost on jobs and quoting our labour more accurately makes a substantial improvement to our profit”

Core Products Manufactured (or Core Business)

Kitchens, stairs, doors and timber boat repairs

% Production is custom made - one off designs (each job different to the last)	100% of our kitchens are manufactured to clients own kitchen designs, so are always custom one offs. We provide quotations for all our kitchens
Any Key Background Information	We did considerable due diligence on Empower Software prior to proceeding which included our business advisor preparing a software specification and then helping us short list software options then on the final two options check off what we required. It became clearly evident to us that some software were developed for and suited to professional services industries, that would not work in a joinery shop. It became clear to us that 100% of Empower Software clients were joiners and other jobbing manufacturers. Our assessment proved that Empower Software had the depth of functionality, screens and reporting we needed as a joiner. Also important to us was that Empower had the necessary production management expert support to visit our business and help us assess our business processes and set up Empower to work correctly on day 1.
# Factory Floor Staff	11
# Total Staff	19
Annual Revenue (approx)	Private. \$3m to \$5m ballpark range
Factory and Office Size m2	550 square metres
# of CNCs	1 CNC Machine
Geography Serviced	Coromandel region, anywhere within approximately 200 klms of the factory
Staff Times on Jobs Recording prior to Empower	Manual time sheets. These were highly inaccurate and highly misleading
Years in Business	43 years currently
Associations and any positions held	National Kitchen and Bathroom Association (NKBA) and member of the Mastercraft Kitchen Manufacturing Group
Staff Groups Tracked on Empower	All factory staff, our installers and our pre production staff who do our detailing on Cabinet Vision Software
Year we started using Empower	2014 (6 years ago currently)
# PCs or tablets on the Factory Floor with Empower on	2 tablets on our factory floor. Our factory staff also use their phones to access their jobs and log on and off jobs
# Of our Managers using Empower	1
Estimated Productivity Gains using Empower	Empower has conservatively reduced our labour times and labour cost on jobs by 15 to 20%. Empower also allows to budget our labour and quote considerably more accurately. Both reducing labour cost on jobs and quoting our labour more accurately makes a substantial improvement to our profit

Key points we have found Empower Factory Productivity and Scheduling Software:

1. Empower keeps our factory staff very time focused on every job
2. Empower allows management to monitor job and staff times and performance on jobs throughout the day
3. Back costing labour time and labour cost in Empower is down to each part of each job and incredibly accurate. In Empower we can also see which factory staff were involved in each part of each job to help understand performance
4. Our actual labour times on jobs consistently meet the budgeted times on jobs, rarely do we over run our budgeted time. Our factory staff continual focus on job times throughout the day is the key to our performance in rarely over running our budgeted times on jobs
5. We back cost the labour on every job and management involved namely: quoting, production and general management discuss time over runs that occurred and they do implement improvement to systems to help ensure the same over runs do not repeat themselves. This is effective continuous improvement within our business
6. Within Empower our sales team have available to them the history of all previously completed jobs including the time quoted and time taken, breakdown to the parts of each job and factory staff involved. This valuable information allows sales management to quote accurately
7. Empower is great for tracking and accurately reporting:

- Downtime to each factory staff member weekly to allow factory staff themselves and management to keep unproductive time to an absolute minimum.
- The 8 times a day all factory staff need to be promptly working. That is, 1 day start, 2 go to smoko, 3 out of smoko, 4 go to lunch, 5 out of lunch, 6 go to smoko, 7 out of smoko and 8 day end. On manual time recording you lose half an hour a staff member per day 2.5 hours per staff member per week
- Rework and all staff involved (ie pre production, factory, delivery and site) and staff recorded reasons
- Job Variations and all staff involved (ie pre production, factory, delivery and site). This enables us to accurately charge clients for variations
- Individual factory staff performance for performance reviews and wage reviews

Many of the progressive kitchen manufacturers in the Mastercraft Group throughout New Zealand including ourselves use Empower Factory Productivity & Scheduling Software in their factories.

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAIL

Please forward this email to someone you know who owns or is management in any Joinery, Engineering or other Manufacturing business throughout Australia or New Zealand. Particularly to those people and businesses who might be struggling to manage their jobs and their labour or struggling to retain previous or expected profit levels.