

Rethinking industrial absorbents: single-use + AEF vs. laundered reusable programs

How one multi-facility manufacturer cut absorbent costs by more than 95% in a single month — while improving product quality and achieving landfill diversion through AEF processing.



<p>96% Month-one cost reduction</p>	<p>\$100K+ Projected annual savings</p>	<p>\$750 First full month spend, vs. \$18,000</p>	<p>Zero Landfill impact</p>
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WHAT WE DID

Key initiatives in the absorbent transition

Wastebits transitioned a large industrial production facility from a \$225K/yr laundered absorbent program to single-use disposable absorbents with Alternative Engineered Fuel (AEF) processing for end-of-life disposal — delivering dramatic cost savings and certified landfill diversion.

- Absorbent program replacement**
Replaced a \$225K/yr laundered absorbent program with single-use disposables. Monthly spend dropped from **\$18K/mo** to **\$750** in the first full month.
- AEF processing pathway**
Used absorbents routed to Alternative Engineered Fuel processing — converted into fuel for cement kilns. Certified **landfill diversion** maintained.
- Eliminated laundering dependency**
Removed vendor-controlled pickup schedules, cross-contamination risk, and fixed contract escalators entirely.
- Product quality improvement**
Fresh, full-performance absorbent products every use — no degradation from repeated wash cycles. Facility-controlled purchasing and inventory.
- Sustainability documentation**
Formal landfill diversion certification via AEF processing. Supports zero-waste-to-landfill goals and corporate sustainability reporting requirements.

⚠ The laundered program's **hidden costs** included energy-intensive washing, chemical solvents, dedicated truck routes, and eventual disposal of degraded products that could no longer be laundered.

MEASURABLE RESULTS

Head-to-head comparison

METRIC	LAUNDERED	SINGLE-USE + AEF
Annual cost	~\$225K/yr	\$75-125K/yr
Monthly spend	~\$18,000/mo	\$750/mo
Product quality	Degrades over time	Fresh every use
Contamination	Cross-client risk	None
Scheduling	Vendor-controlled	Facility-controlled
Landfill diversion	End-of-life disposal	Certified via AEF

96% Cost Reduction
in the first full month

From \$18,000/mo to just \$750 — with fresh product every use and certified landfill diversion via AEF.

IS THIS RIGHT FOR YOUR FACILITY?

Ideal for facilities where laundered absorbent contracts exceed \$100K/yr, production involves heavy oil or coolant use, zero-waste-to-landfill goals are in place, and management wants more control over spend and inventory.

THE TRANSITION

Wastebits managed the full transition from the incumbent laundered absorbent vendor to single-use products with AEF disposal — including vendor evaluation, product sourcing, AEF processing coordination, and floor workflow adjustments. Operational concerns were resolved within the first weeks of rollout.