



## Autobag solves Raindrips demand dilemma by increasing production efficiency to nearly 100%

Raindrip is a leading manufacturer of irrigation products and produces a full line of drip and micro-irrigation products, including kits, tubing, drippers, sprinklers, misters, fittings and accessories.

### The Problem

Company	:	<b>Raindrip</b>
Product	:	Irrigation products
Machinery	:	AB 180™, PI 412c™

A booming building industry and DIY retail market meant that Raindrips seasonal rushes were growing larger creating more demand than existing production facilities could handle. Previously bagged into 50's or 100's for professional landscapers and irrigation installers the increasing demand from the retail market meant demand was focusing on smaller packs of 5's and 10's, and many more kit assembly packs.

Raindrips existing packaging systems were operating at full speed and could not keep up with production. Downtime for maintenance and changeovers was unacceptable and efficiency levels were down to 80%. Raindrip knew they could not go into their busiest period of the year with these kinds of production levels; they had to find a way to improve efficiency and increase output.

### The Autobag<sup>®</sup> Solution

In January 2004 Raindrip evaluated, and subsequently ordered, two new Autobag AB 180 baggers from Automated Packaging Systems. Each AB 180 bagger came with a PI 412c thermal printer allowing them to easily code each pack with a barcode, part description and graphic ready for the retail market.

Operating at speeds up to 80 bags per minute, the Autobag systems were easily able to keep up with production, and pack size changeovers were completed in less than two minutes.

### The Result

Raindrip has just completed its busiest quarter ever and was able to meet increased demands thanks to its partnership with Automated Packaging Systems. *"Our two new Autobag systems allowed us to increase productivity by 20% without adding additional staff"* comments **Eric Gutzmann, Production Planner for Raindrip.**

Gutzmann also estimates a 98 percent uptime for the new Autobag units. *"Our operators actually fight over who gets to use the new Autobag systems because set up is easier with the touch screen control, all of the printing queues are stored in the memory and there are rarely any breakdowns."*

Gutzmann adds *"Our service man generally tries to fix any problems we may have the same day with an unscheduled service call, or technical support over the phone. The new units are so well designed he can even walk me through an adjustment procedure over the phone. Technical support for our previous bagging equipment was virtually non-existent. Our service support from Automated Packaging Systems rates 10 out of 10"*



A CASE STUDY IN THE BENEFITS OF AUTOMATED PACKAGING



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