



UHP PROJECTS, INC.

Ultra High Pressure Projects

UHP PROJECTS, INC. HELPS PRESERVE HISTORY



The **USS Wisconsin**, the USA's largest and last Battleship, was launched on December 7, 1943. The "Big Whisky," as she was affectionately known by those who served on her, saw action in WW II, Korea, Viet Nam and Desert Storm. She was decommissioned for the third time in 1991 but still remains in the US Navy's Inactive Fleet.

The USS Wisconsin was docked in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Norfolk, Virginia when it was decided that the ship would be cleaned and painted to become a visitor ship and be berthed next to Nauticus in Norfolk, Virginia as part of the Hampton Roads Naval Museum.

There was not a dry-dock available or the necessary funds to pull the Wisconsin for this work. The cleaning and painting would have to be performed with the ship in the water. Because the work was to be done on a government facility, no paint, rust or effluent water would be allowed to enter the Elizabeth River. The project must be completed by Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2000 the ceremonial date set for her berthing at Nauticus.

This project was awarded to UHP Projects, Inc. to be performed using the **JetTrac™** Vacuum Recovery System. This system consists of a remote crawler that is vacuum attached to the surface being cleaned. UHP waterjets are used to remove existing coatings from the steel surface inside the vacuum shroud of this tool. A remote pump provides 40,000 PSI waterjets to the nozzle bar used for cleaning. The effluent water and paint are then removed through an attached hose to a remote filtering system. The paint residue is removed from the jetting water for disposal.

USS WISCONSIN (BB-64)
The Last WW II Battleship Opens to the Public

UHP Projects used the vacuum attached **JetTrac™ System** to clean the hull from the deck to the waterline. UHP also employed various specially designed vacuum tools to clean those irregular surfaces (doubler plates, padeyes and hull fittings) that could not be cleaned using the **JetTrac™** crawler. Sealed curtains on manlifts were used where hand jetting and painting had to be performed.

The effluent water and paint are removed through an attached hose to a remote filtering system. The paint residue is removed from the jetting water for disposal. All spent water, paint, rust and other hull contaminants were vacuum recovered and pumped to a filter skid where the water and solids were separated. The filter system reduced the waste to 5% of that waste that would be generated by abrasive cleaning methods.

Paint removed from effluent jetting water	Approx 1,800 lbs
Amount of water used	112,000 gals
Average water use	1.5 gals / Ft²
Average amount of Paint removed	1 Lb / 4.5 Ft²

Project Disposal information



After each days cleaning, the cleaned area was primed using brush and rollers. The intermediate and final coats were also applied using brush and rollers. By using the covered vacuum cleaning method and brush and roller paint application there was no requirement to use drapes, tarps, booms or other equipment to protect the environmentally sensitive Elizabeth River or surrounding areas. During the two months that it took to complete this project there was zero spills or releases.

UHP Projects employed full time Quality and Safety personnel for the duration of this project. UHP checked and documented air quality, surface preparation and coating application guidelines hourly throughout the complete project.

The vacuum attached **JetTrac™ System** was also used for the surface preparation and non-skid removal on the ships flight deck. This area was cleaned and recoated using mil spec products. UHP Projects cleaned and recoated 72,000 FT² of hull area and 8,300 FT² of flight deck non-skid.



Upon completion all concerned parties were completely satisfied with the project and the manner in which it was performed. Since the opening of the Wisconsin for visitors UHP Projects, Inc. has received many positive comments. We are proud to have been part of this historic endeavor.

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