

# **THERMO-CLEAN CONNECTED**

**COMMITTED TO CLEAN - CONNECTED TO YOU**

A MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THERMO-CLEAN  
ISSUE NO. 1 - JANUARY 2026

**PAINT STRIPPING**  
OUR NUMBER ONE SPECIALITY

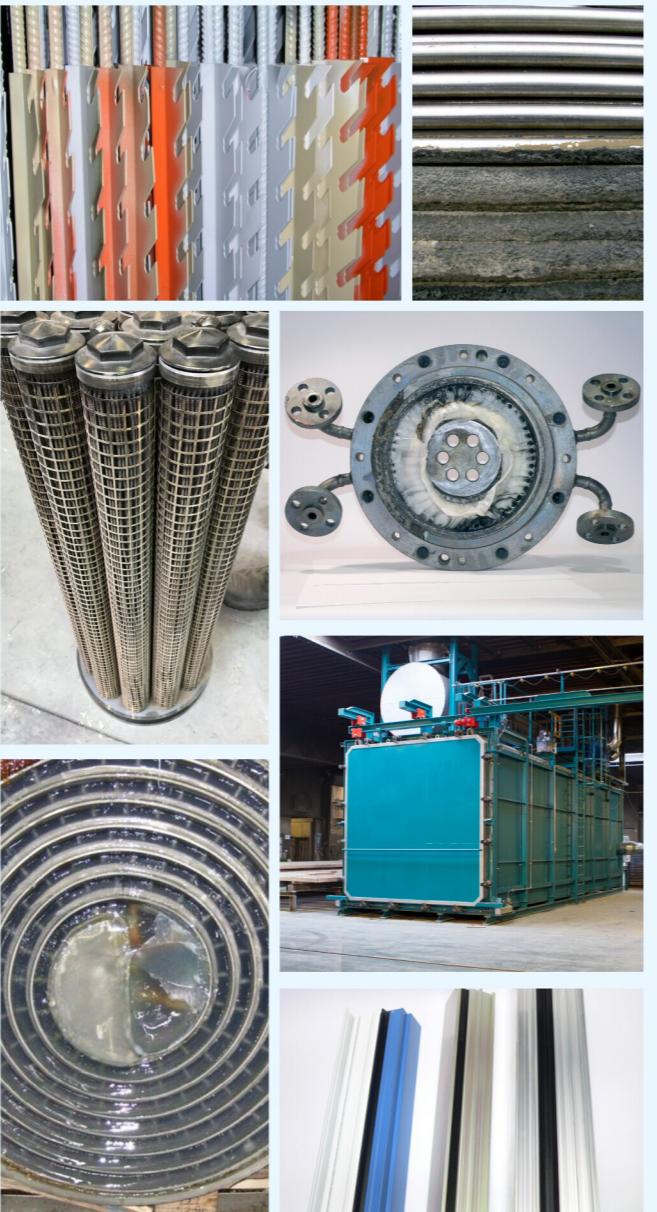
**FILTER CLEANING**  
TAILORED SOLUTIONS FOR ALL TYPES OF FILTERS

**TOTAL CARE HEAT EXCHANGER CLEANING SERVICE**  
HOW OUR 10-STEP CLEANING PROCESS WORKS

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## ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO

The cover image is a striking visual representation of our core speciality: paint stripping. The contrast of colours highlights the wide range of coatings we encounter every day and the technical challenges they present.

At Thermo-Clean, removing these layers is a precise and carefully controlled process. In this specific case, the components are cleaned using chemical paint stripping, as the container is made of stainless steel and the internal mixer is manufactured from plastic.

The colourful surfaces on the cover symbolise both the diversity of industries we serve and the transformation that follows our work: from coated to clean, from worn to renewed. It is a visual reflection of our core expertise and the high standards we apply to every project.



## OUR CORE VALUES



At Thermo-Clean, our values guide every decision we make and every project we deliver. We place **customer service** at the centre of our work, keeping our promises with quality, punctuality, and clear communication. We maintain our position as a **market leader** by continuously developing smarter, more efficient solutions.

We believe in **continuous improvement**, with every team member contributing to better processes, higher quality, and a stronger working environment. Through **empowerment and ownership**, we give our people the freedom and responsibility to shape their work with initiative.

We actively **create opportunities**, helping colleagues grow through training, new responsibilities, and innovations that open doors to new markets. And we uphold our **corporate responsibility** by balancing strong performance with respect for people and the planet.

These values define who we are and how we continue to build a stronger Thermo-Clean every day.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF THERMO-CLEAN CONNECTED

Dear reader,

It is with great pride that I present to you the very first edition of *Thermo-Clean Connected*. With this magazine, we aim to give you an inside look into the world of Thermo-Clean: our expertise, innovations, and the standards that guide us every day. This publication marks an important milestone for our organisation, as it allows us to share not only what we do, but the philosophy and dedication that drive our work.

Over the years, the Thermo-Clean Group has grown from a specialised paint-stripping service into a European reference for chemical and thermal cleaning of metals and other materials. What began as a focused technical activity has evolved into a broad and reliable portfolio of cleaning solutions: from filter cleaning to the thermal cleaning of heat exchangers, and from paint removal to eliminating plastics from highly technical components. Across every application and industry we serve, our mission remains unchanged: delivering safe, consistent, and high-quality results for every customer, every time.

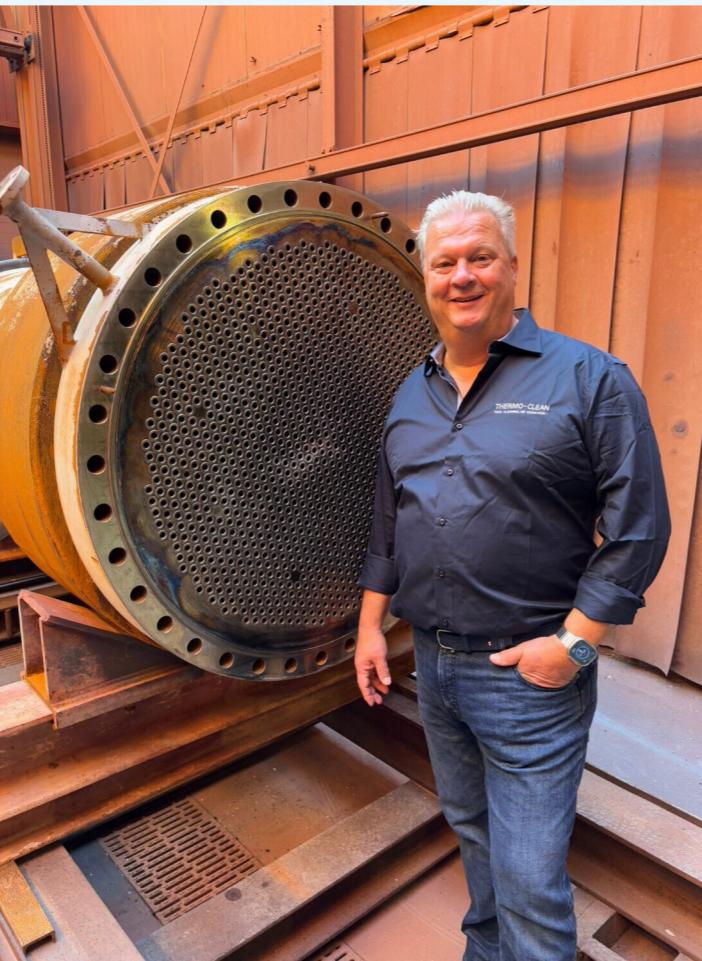
In this first issue, we invite you to explore the foundations of our expertise. Learn more about paint stripping, our core speciality, and discover how our filter cleaning services extend the lifetime and efficiency of critical equipment. We also showcase our Total Care approach for heat exchanger cleaning, a comprehensive solution designed to maximise performance, reliability, and peace of mind for our customers.

*Thermo-Clean Connected* is more than a magazine; it is a reflection of our ongoing commitment to craftsmanship, innovation, and long-term partnerships. Through these pages, we hope to give you a deeper understanding of who we are, what we stand for, and how we strive to support your success.

Thank you for your continued trust in Thermo-Clean.

Warm regards,

Robert Mol  
CEO Thermo-Clean Group



## THE STORY BEHIND OUR LOGO

A company's visual identity is never just decoration. It reflects who we are, what we stand for, and how we have evolved. At Thermo-Clean, our logo tells that story. Although our current logo has been in use for some time now, its meaning and origins remain an important part of our identity. It also builds on the foundation of our previous logo, keeping a clear link to where we started.

The red swoosh symbolizes heat, which forms the core of our thermal cleaning technology. It represents the energy, strength, and precision that drive our processes every day.

The grey dots refer to chemical particles, a subtle but meaningful nod to the controlled chemistry that supports and enhances our cleaning methods.

The typography completes the message. THERMO appears in bold, CLEAN in a lighter weight, and a red line is placed only on the left. Together, these elements visually express our mission: transforming components from contaminated to clean, from affected to fully restored.

Our current logo honours our history while clearly expressing who we are today, a company powered by thermal expertise, chemical precision, and a commitment to spotless results.



## STAY CONNECTED WITH THERMO-CLEAN!

Want to keep up with our latest innovations, company news, and behind-the-scenes insights? Follow Thermo-Clean on LinkedIn! It's the best place to discover project updates, industry expertise, event announcements, and stories from our teams across Europe. Join our growing community and stay up to date with everything happening at Thermo-Clean.

Follow us on LinkedIn!





# PAINT STRIPPING

## OUR NUMBER ONE SPECIALITY

# PAINT STRIPPING

## Thermal & Chemical Solutions for Every Material

For over three decades, Thermo-Clean Group has been the go-to expert in industrial paint stripping, both thermal and chemical. Recognized as a market leader across Europe, we support industries ranging from automotive and aerospace to general manufacturing with fast, thorough, and sustainable paint stripping services.

Whether you are working with production equipment that requires regular maintenance or components that need thorough reprocessing, our specialised facilities and expert teams are ready to handle every challenge with precision, safety, and speed. We combine proven techniques with years of experience to ensure your parts continue to perform at their best.

### Total Paint Removal - Any Part, Any Time

From suspension hooks and grids to skids, fixtures, and incorrectly painted components, we can remove coatings from virtually any part. Whether you face complex geometries, stubborn multilayer coatings, or delicate materials, we adapt our chemical and thermal processes to achieve the best possible results while always protecting the integrity and functionality of your parts.

With an extensive European network of ten cleaning centers, and more on the way, we are always close to our customers. This presence enables us to respond quickly, manage peaks in demand, and meet tight deadlines, all while maintaining consistent quality and service across every Thermo-Clean location.



**Thermal Paint Stripping - Cleaned with Controlled Heat**

Our thermal paint stripping method uses high temperatures (380–450°C) in a low-oxygen environment to break down even the most stubborn paint layers into harmless dust. This controlled process ensures no warping or tension in the treated parts, making it especially effective for heavily coated components or parts unsuitable for chemical treatment.

Once the thermal cycle is complete—typically within eight hours—an after-treatment phase removes any remaining dust or residues. Available after-treatments include:

- Manual or automated blasting
- Wet or dry glass bead blasting
- High-pressure cleaning
- CO<sub>2</sub> blasting
- Ultrasonic cleaning
- Staining and passivation for corrosion protection



We also offer specialized services such as calibration, repair, and manufacturing of suspension hooks, as well as engineering custom storage and stripping containers.

# PAINT STRIPPING

## Chemical Paint Stripping – Gentle Yet Effective

Our chemical immersion process involves submerging parts in a heated bath (70–80°C) that breaks down the adhesion layer of the paint. Ideal for larger components with one or two layers of coating, this method ensures effective stripping without damaging the base material.

Alternatively, for smaller or more time-sensitive jobs, chemical spray stripping offers a faster solution. Components are sprayed in a controlled cabin with heated chemicals (up to 140°C), reducing process time to under 90 minutes. This technique minimizes the need for post-processing and manual handling.

After any chemical stripping, we apply tailored finishing procedures based on the material:

- Steel parts: high-pressure water jetting, staining, and passivation
- Aluminium parts: rinsing cycles followed by neutralization and optional conversion layer removal

## Why Choose Thermo-Clean?

- European market leader in industrial paint stripping
- A growing network of production sites ensures fast turnaround
- Proven expertise in both thermal and chemical processes
- Customized after-treatments to suit your industry and component type
- Sustainable and safe stripping methods aligned with modern environmental standards

Whether you want to extend the life of your production equipment or address paint issues in high-value components, Thermo-Clean provides the capacity, experience, and technology to complete the job correctly the first time.

**Discover what clean really means. Contact Thermo-Clean today at [sales@thermoclean.com](mailto:sales@thermoclean.com).**





THE LEADING SPECIALIST  
IN CHEMICAL OR  
THERMAL PAINT  
STRIPPING OF METALS

# EXPERT INSIGHT: The Power of Clean Filters

## An Interview with Appie Peters, Filter Specialist at Thermo-Clean

From mesh-packs to metal oil filters, keeping filters clean is crucial to performance, efficiency, and sustainability. We sat down with Appie Peters, Thermo-Clean's go-to expert for filter cleaning, to learn more about how this often-overlooked process delivers major value for industrial clients.

### Appie, filter cleaning might not be the first thing people think about when it comes to maintenance. Why is it so important?

Appie: You're right! It often flies under the radar, but clean filters are essential for keeping production lines efficient and equipment in top condition. Over time, filters get clogged with contaminants, which can lead to increased pressure drops, reduced flow rates, and even costly downtime. Cleaning your filters regularly not only restores performance but also extends their lifespan significantly. And here at Thermo-Clean, we make sure it's done properly, precisely, and sustainably.

### What makes Thermo-Clean's approach to filter cleaning stand out?

We offer fully customized cleaning solutions for all types of filters regardless of brand, type, or industry. From thermal and chemical cleaning to ultrasonic methods, we select the technique that best suits the specific filter and contamination. For example, sintered metal filters or melt filters may require a different treatment than pleated or hotmelt filters. That tailor-made approach is key to maintaining the filter's integrity and function.

### Can you walk us through the process? What happens when a client sends you a filter?

Absolutely. When we receive a new filter, we start by performing a pre-cleaning and initial testing to establish reference values: this includes weight, back-flow, or bubble point measurements. The filter is also engraved with a unique code so we can track its performance over time. That's the basis for everything we do.

When the filter comes back to us after use, we apply the appropriate cleaning process; thermal, chemical, or ultrasonic, or often a combination. Once cleaned, we perform final inspections and compare them with the original values. If needed, we disassemble and reassemble filter bundles for a complete service.

### So we've heard all about how filters are tested. But what happens afterwards? Do customers just get their filter back and hope for the best?

Definitely not! Every cleaned filter is accompanied by a full report. In fact, we like to say: "The cleaning is only as good as the report that proves it." The report shows exactly what has been done, how the filter performed, and whether it's fit for reuse.

### What kind of information is included in such a report?

We start with basic but essential product identification: things like the dimensions of the filter, the weight before and after cleaning, the type and level of pollution, the pore size, and how the filter is used in its specific industrial application. This background gives us and the customer context, especially when comparing results to previous cleanings or to new filters.

### Is the cleaning process itself also documented?

Absolutely. Every step of the cleaning is recorded in detail. That includes whether we've used chemical or thermal treatments, rinsing, backflow testing, and what kind of weight loss we measured. And believe me, when a filter drops a few grams of stubborn contamination, that's worth noting.

### Is there an initial check before cleaning?

Yes, we always start with a first inspection when the filter arrives. That can already reveal damage, deformation, or heavy blockages. It helps us choose the right cleaning method and gives us a reference point for evaluating the result afterward.

### And after cleaning, what kind of results are shared?

We provide a full overview, combining both technical data and visual checks. There's a visual inspection to look for damage or residue, a knock test to detect any loose material, and a control sheet where we log relevant measured values. The technician also adds a short written inspection, and the whole report ends with a clear technical conclusion.

### Do you use graphs or data visualisation too?

Yes, where it adds value. For instance, we often include a graph of the filter's weight before and after cleaning, or a visual representation of the backflow resistance. When customers have older data, or if we handle the filter regularly, we can compare these results over time. That gives a very clear and measurable picture of the filter's performance and condition.

### So the report is more than just a formality.

Absolutely. It's what we like to call the technical passport of the filter. We want our customers to know exactly what condition their filter is in: fully cleaned, properly tested, and transparently documented.

### What if a filter doesn't pass the test?

Then we're honest about it. The report will clearly state the outcome, including whether the filter is still suitable for reuse or not. If we spot signs of damage, wear, or clogging that we can't resolve through cleaning, we make sure that's known. It's better to catch that here than have problems down the line in the customer's process.

### Sounds like each filter gets a proper second opinion.

Exactly! We're not just cleaning filters, we're giving them a fair evaluation and, if all goes well, a second chance. With the paperwork to back it up, of course.

### The level of inspection sounds rigorous. What kinds of tests do you perform?

We run various high-precision tests, depending on the filter type and client requirements. The most common are bubble point and back-flow tests, which help us detect the smallest defects or blockages. We also do accurate weight measurements after cleaning, which are especially useful for assessing the level of contamination removed. For some of our customers, we perform an additional knock test. These tests give our clients complete confidence that their filters are functioning optimally again.

### We often hear about the bubble point and back-flow tests. Could you explain what they are and when they're used?

Absolutely. These tests are used to check whether a filter element can be reused after cleaning. However, not all filter types are suitable for these tests, so we always check internally with our specialists before we proceed.

### Let's start with the bubble point test. What's the process?

We clamp the filter and connect it to a compressed air supply on one side. Then we submerge it in a bath of isopropyl alcohol (IPA) with exactly 3 cm of IPA above the filter. This column of liquid provides the necessary counterpressure. IPA works perfectly for this because of its low surface tension, allowing it to enter all the pores without trapping air, which could interfere with the test. Water, by contrast, would create many air pockets. And believe me, when you are looking for a single bubble, extra bubbles are the last thing you want!

### What exactly are you looking for in this test?

We slowly reduce the air pressure until we see just one bubble escaping: that's the bubble point. It's the weakest spot in the filter, and the pressure at that moment tells us a lot about the condition of the pores.

### What can that pressure tell you?

Quite a bit. We compare it to a new filter's value, previous cleaning cycles and theoretical predictions based on pore size and filter structure. We also look at how big the gap is between the second-last and final bubble. That can indicate whether there's just one larger pore (which is normal), or if there's actual damage or wear.



### **Got it. And how does the back-flow test work?**

In this test, we push a fixed air volume, typically between 600 and 1200 liters per hour, back through the filter and measure the pressure that builds up. This gives us the resistance of the filter: the more open it is, the lower the pressure. And here it gets visual, because unlike the single bubble of the first test, we now see a whole cloud of bubbles coming out.

### **Sounds almost festive.**

Exactly! [laughs] If you like bubbles, this is your moment. We always say: if there's no champagne-style bubbling, your filter might be flat. And nobody likes flat filters... or flat champagne.

### **I'll drink to that. Anything else the back-flow test tells you?**

Absolutely. The bubbling pattern can show whether the filter is evenly clean. If certain areas don't bubble as much, it might be clogged. And if pressure drops unusually low, it might be torn or damaged.

### **So both tests help determine if a filter can be reused?**

Yes. The combination of technical data and visual inspection gives us a reliable assessment of both cleanliness and integrity. Especially when we compare results to new or previous values, we get a full picture.

### **Apart from performance, are there other advantages to cleaning filters instead of replacing them?**

Definitely. Cost savings are a big one! Cleaning a metal filter costs only 10 to 20% of what a new one would. That's a major difference, especially if you're operating with a large number of filters. Then there's the environmental benefit: less production of new filters means lower resource use and reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. There's less waste as well. Plus, our cleaning processes consume less energy than manufacturing new parts. It's a win-win for the client and the planet.

### **Can Thermo-Clean also replace filters if they're no longer usable?**

Yes, if our tests show that a filter can no longer meet required performance levels, we inform the client and offer to supply a new one. The goal is to always ensure that the final result is a fully functional and efficient filter unit, whether that means cleaning or replacing.

### **Let's say I have filters that need cleaning; can I bring them to any Thermo-Clean location?**

At this moment, full filter cleaning and testing is offered at our Thermo-Clean site in the Netherlands, in Moordrecht. That location is fully equipped for both standard and high-end filter processes, including bubble point and backflow testing, full reporting, and traceability.

### **So it's currently a centralized service?**

Exactly. But that's changing. We're actively expanding our capabilities, and in the near future, our Rhône-Alpes site in France and our Thüringen site in Germany will also be offering dedicated filter cleaning services.

### **That sounds like a big step.**

It is. The demand for professional filter cleaning keeps growing, and we want to make the service more accessible across Europe. Each new location will follow the same high-quality process, backed by the expertise we've built up in Thermo-Clean Nederland.

### **Until then, Moordrecht is the place to be?**

That's right. For now, Moordrecht is our filter cleaning HQ. But keep an eye on our other sites, because filters might soon be enjoying a spa day a little closer to home.

### **Final question: if a company is unsure whether their filters need cleaning, what would you advise?**

Just reach out. Even if you're not sure, we're happy to take a look. We can evaluate the condition of your filters and advise on the most cost-effective and reliable next steps. In many cases, cleaning is not only possible, it is the smarter option.

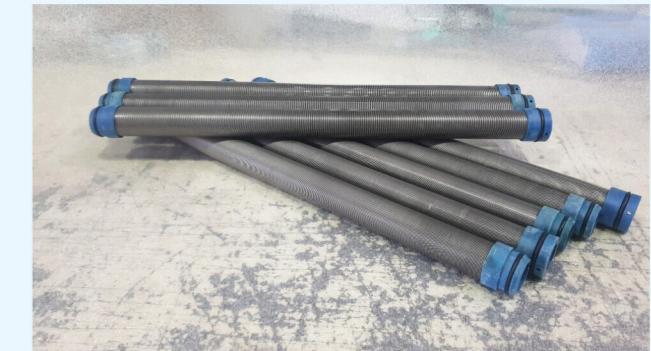
### **Ready to optimize your filters?**

**Contact Thermo-Clean ([sales@thermoclean.com](mailto:sales@thermoclean.com)) today and discover how professional filter cleaning can boost your performance, reduce costs, and lower your environmental impact.**



# **FILTER CLEANING**

## **ALL TYPES OF FILTERS ARE POSSIBLE**



*Watch our animation video about filter cleaning here!*





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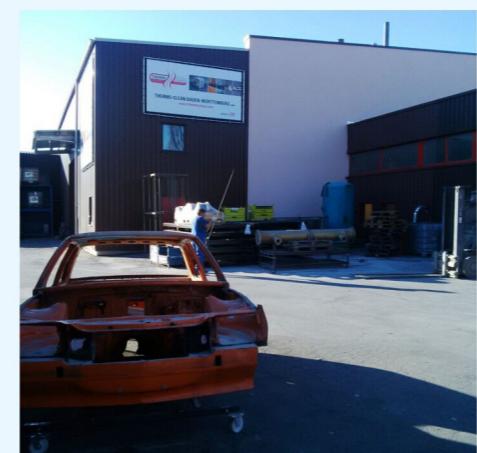
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# TOTAL CARE HEAT EXCHANGER CLEANING SERVICE

AT THERMO-CLEAN WE DO MORE THAN CLEANING ALONE. WITH OUR TOTAL CARE APPROACH WE WILL UNBURDEN YOU COMPLETELY. BESIDES DECOMMISSIONING AND RECOMMISSIONING YOUR HEAT EXCHANGER ON SITE, WE ARRANGE EVERYTHING FOR YOU. ON THE NEXT 2 PAGES, YOU'LL FIND OUT HOW OUR 10-STEP CLEANING PROCESS WORKS.

# TOTAL CARE HEAT EXCHANGER CLEANING SERVICE



**Step 1**  
You remove or swap out a complete heat exchanger



**Step 2**  
Thermo-Clean arranges transport off site



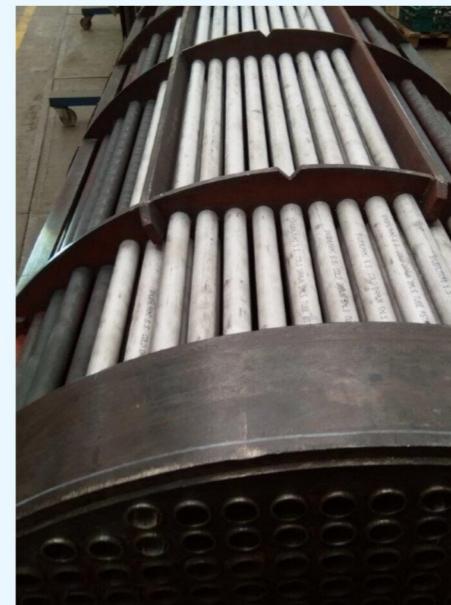
**Step 3**  
Disassemble the heads and floating heads, among other components



**Step 4**  
Extract the tube bundle



**Step 5**  
Safely clean all parts with our advanced thermal cleaning process



**Step 6**  
Other specified maintenance works and services including Eddy Current measurement, tube replacement, shell refinishing and repairs



**Step 7**  
Reassembly



**Step 8**  
Pressure testing to verify the heat exchanger is 100% operational and to detect any potential leakage



**Step 9**  
Prepare the heat exchanger for shipment and return it to your site



**Step 10**  
You can install the clean heat exchanger for immediate use



# UPCOMING TRADE FAIRS

In 2026, Thermo-Clean will be back at key industry fairs across Europe. These events are the perfect opportunity to meet our teams, explore our latest innovations, and exchange ideas with professionals from across the industry. We look forward to welcoming you, answering your questions, and showing firsthand how Thermo-Clean can make a difference for you. Check the schedule below to see where to find us this year.

TRADE FAIR	WHEN?
SEPEM Douai	27 - 29 January 2026
Maintenance Dortmund	25 - 26 February 2026
Maintenance Antwerpen	25 - 26 March 2026
PaintExpo	14 - 17 April 2026
Clean Event	23 April 2026
Plastics Recycling Show Europe	5 - 6 May 2026
Heat Exchanger World	6 - 7 May 2026
FILTECH	30 June - 2 July 2026
Maintenance Namur	24 November 2026
SEPEM Grenoble	24 - 26 November 2026



Thermo-Clean at the K Trade Fair in 2025 (3D visual)

Thermo-Clean at the LH PétroChimie Trade Fair in 2025



# HISTORY

Thermo-Clean started out in 1989 as a subsidiary of Jos Mol Coatings nv, which handled the distribution of powder coatings in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Initially, Thermo-Clean had a modest infrastructure in a 600 m<sup>2</sup> factory building. In addition to a pyrolysis oven measuring 3.5 x 2.2 x 1.85 metres for the thermal paint stripping of metals, we had a blasting cabinet and a spray painting booth for high-pressure cleaning.

Alongside the paint stripping of metals, we specialised in the removal of plastic from parts.



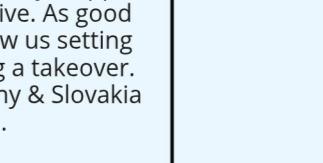
During the 1990s, Thermo-Clean wanted to become a major player on the Belgian market for the stripping of all kinds of metal parts. Our experience in the cleaning of costly technical parts for the chemical industry expanded and matured accordingly.

Thanks to our exceptional service and high-quality standards, we quickly began attracting international interest. In 1999, we completed our first acquisition of an industry peer near Lyon, France, which later became our Thermo-Clean Rhône-Alpes site.

In 2000, Thermo-Clean started with the thermal cleaning of heat exchangers.



In the 21st century, we gradually stepped up our foreign expansion drive. As good as every year that passed saw us setting up a new site or undertaking a takeover. After France, sites in Germany & Slovakia followed in quick succession.



In 2019, we started with filter cleaning at our site in Moordrecht, the Netherlands

In 2016, our 100.000th oven charge was done. A historic milestone that symbolizes our years of expertise in thermal cleaning.



Our story continues!

After rapid growth over the past decade, we've optimized our current locations to prepare for the future. We're focused on further organic growth and acquisitions by remaining true to our core values.

# MAKING STRONG STRIDES IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Over the past six years, Thermo-Clean Group has made steady and measurable progress in reducing its environmental impact, underscoring its dedication to sustainability across all operations. An independent audit conducted by Encon highlights the company's achievements in lowering greenhouse gas emissions from stationary facilities, mobile operations, direct production processes, and electricity use.

The company's most significant progress has been in stationary emissions. From 2018 to 2024, emissions from stationary sources fell from 7,092 tCO<sub>2</sub>e to 4,775 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (a 33% reduction) thanks to continuous improvements in thermal cleaning efficiency and investments in modern technologies across multiple sites. By optimizing operational procedures and implementing best practices, Thermo-Clean has significantly reduced the carbon footprint of its core industrial processes.

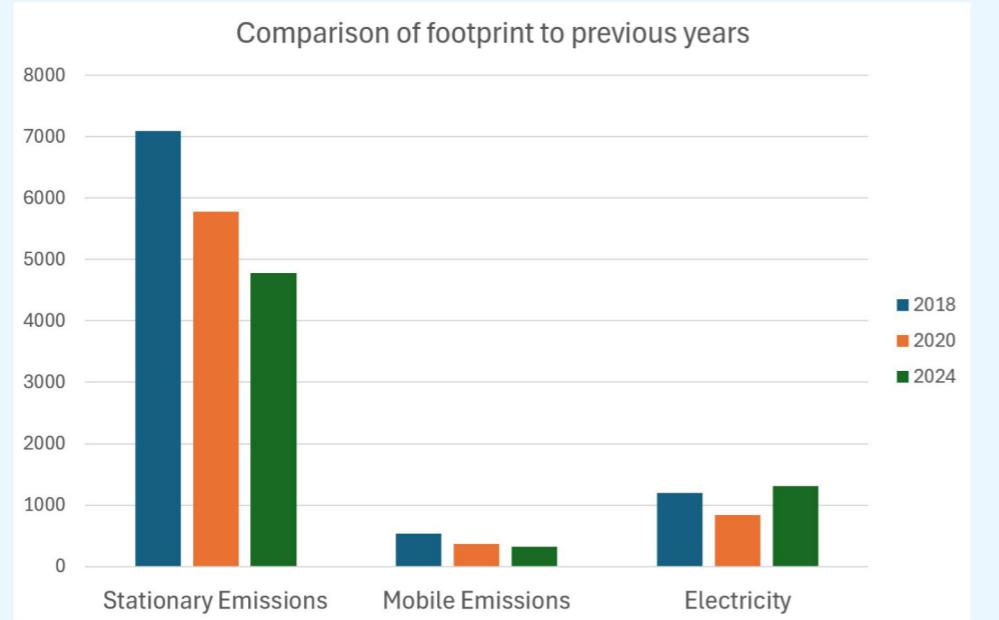
Mobile emissions have also decreased. By focusing on electric vehicles and refining transportation logistics, the company lowered mobile emissions from 531 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018 to 327 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024, a 38% reduction. Direct emissions from the pyrolysis process dropped from 839 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018 to 661 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020, rising slightly to 670 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024, reflecting an overall 20% reduction through ongoing process efficiency improvements.

## ALL OUR LOCATIONS CONTINUE TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO LOWER OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Electricity-related emissions present a more complex picture. After decreasing from 1,194 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018 to 840 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2020, they rose to 1,315 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024 due to market-based calculations and electrification of processes and fleet operations. Thermo-Clean is addressing this by sourcing green electricity and generating renewable energy via solar panels.

Across all ten locations, employees are actively engaged in initiatives to reduce the company's carbon footprint. These include improving energy efficiency, optimizing logistics to minimize emissions, and implementing renewable energy projects such as solar installations and green electricity sourcing. Together, these efforts reflect a strong, company-wide commitment to sustainability, responsible operations, and ongoing environmental improvement.

Thermo-Clean's achievements demonstrate that meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are possible when efficiency, innovation, and responsible practices come together. By continuing to invest in advanced technology, process improvements, and renewable energy solutions, the company ensures that environmental responsibility remains at the heart of its mission.





TOOL CLEANING,  
WE KNOW-HOW!

