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PRESS RELEASE

Neukirchen-Vluyn, 10 September 2026

Thermal Cleaning: When Recycling Processes Reach Their Limits

SCHWING Technologies presents solutions for efficient and reliable cleaning of machine and tool components at Compounding & Recycling Expo 2026

Increasing recycling targets, increasingly complex material mixtures and the growing use of recycled materials are presenting the plastics industry with new challenges. At the same time, production equipment must remain economical, reliable and available for as long as possible. The cleaning of machine and tool components plays a key role in this context.

At Compounding & Recycling Expo 2026, taking place on 23 and 24 September in Frankfurt, SCHWING Technologies will demonstrate how thermal cleaning technologies can efficiently remove polymer deposits, additives and material residues, helping to create the conditions for stable production processes. The specialist in thermal cleaning systems will present its technologies in **Hall 11, Stand D713**.



Example: Laser filter before and after cleaning. Image copyright: SCHWING Technologies

Different Materials – Different Cleaning Processes

Whether in compounding, extrusion or plastics recycling, cleaning requirements vary as widely as the materials and components used. Particularly when switching between different polymers or processing recycled materials, stubborn deposits can build up.

SCHWING Technologies therefore uses a range of thermal processes that are specifically tailored to the respective application.

VACUCLEAN and VACUCLEAN COMPACT use thermal vacuum pyrolysis and are suitable, among other applications, for cleaning pelletizing dies, extruder screws, screw elements, laser filters and filter discs. A wide variety of plastics and polymer residues can be removed using these systems.

For particularly large components, SCHWING offers the MAXICLEAN cleaning system. Its thermal pyrolysis process is suitable, for example, for large extrusion dies and plastic components.

INNOVACLEAN provides a specialized solution for demanding applications. Its fluidized-bed technology enables the cleaning of hot-runner manifolds, breaker plates, screw elements and other components. High-temperature plastics such as LCP, PEI, PPS and PI can also be thermally cleaned using this process.

SCHWING's thermal processes selectively remove organic contaminants without mechanically stressing the metal components being cleaned. Depending on the application, additional post-cleaning treatment processes can be used.

Recycled Materials Change Cleaning Requirements

The increasing use of recycled materials is also raising the requirements for the preparation and processing of plastics. Different polymer types, additives, fillers and contaminants can result in complex residues in extruders, tools and filter systems.

For SCHWING Technologies, individually tailored cleaning is therefore an important part of an efficient recycling process.

Technology Meets Service

SCHWING Technologies not only supplies thermal cleaning systems for use worldwide, but also supports customers in Germany with its own cleaning service.

At the company's headquarters in Neukirchen-Vluyn in the Lower Rhine region, customers and interested parties can have their contaminated components tested under real-world conditions. Based on the specific components and contaminants involved, SCHWING can determine which process is best suited to the respective application.

The results can then serve as a basis for selecting and designing an in-house cleaning system.

Sustainability Starts with the Machine Component

Thermal cleaning can also contribute to a more sustainable approach to high-quality machine and tool components. If components can be reliably cleaned and therefore used for longer or more efficiently, resources can be conserved and the need for replacement parts reduced.

SCHWING Technologies continuously develops its cleaning technologies and is increasingly focusing on energy-efficient, safe and automated processes.

SCHWING Technologies at Compounding & Recycling Expo 2026

At Compounding & Recycling Expo 2026, trade visitors can learn more about the various thermal cleaning technologies and discuss specific applications with SCHWING experts.

23–24 September 2026
Messe Frankfurt
Hall 11 | Stand D713

The focus will be on solutions for cleaning components used in compounding, extrusion, plastics processing and recycling.

SCHWING Technologies invites trade visitors to explore together how thermal cleaning can be integrated into existing production and recycling processes – for less downtime, higher machine availability and more efficient use of resources.

About SCHWING Technologies

With almost 60 years of experience in the market, **SCHWING Technologies GmbH** is a global technology leader in high-temperature systems for the thermal cleaning, thermo-chemical material treatment and heat treatment of metal parts and tools used in manufacturing industries. SCHWING manufactures and operates its systems at its headquarters in Neukirchen-Vluyn in the Lower Rhine region of Germany.

Its approximately 2,500 customers worldwide include companies in the plastics and fiber industries as well as the chemical and automotive sectors. With around 80 employees, the company offers the most economical, environmentally sound and high-quality equipment and system solution for every cleaning requirement.

As a cleaning service provider, SCHWING is also a reliable service partner, cleaning more than 250,000 workpieces every year in accordance with the highest quality and environmental standards.

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