

# Kelley HVLS fans open the energy savings pipeline for Mark's Plumbing Parts

**Company:**

Mark's Plumbing Parts

**Challenge:**

Keeping employees cool efficiently while also complying with local fire codes

**Solution:**

Kelley FUSION HVLS Fans

**Industry:**

Plumbing

**Geography:**

Fort Worth, TX

"We knew we couldn't just remove the fans and not provide any alternative method of cooling,"

**- Jason Marbut  
Operations Manager**

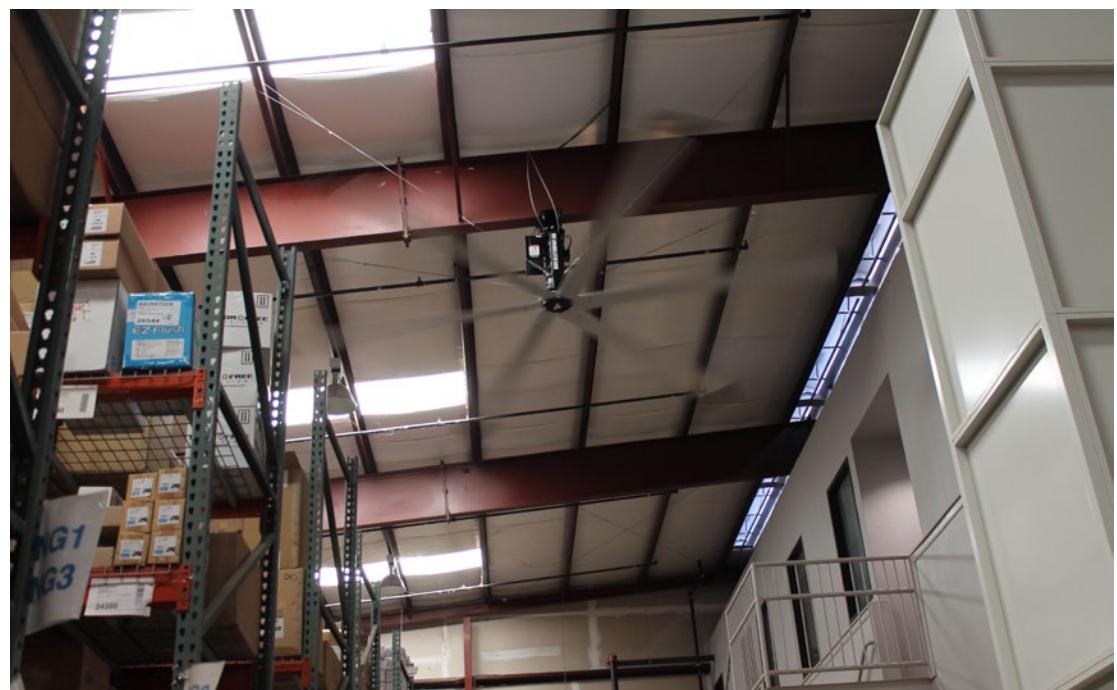
Mark's Plumbing Parts, located in Fort Worth, Texas is the leading nationwide distributor of genuine OEM and aftermarket plumbing parts as well as maintenance repair products for just about any plumbing application or problem. Founded in 1980 as a small, family-owned business, Mark's has since grown into its own, as a national distributor of plumbing parts and MRO products, tracking nearly 30,000 skus shipped from its main warehouse.

Mark's prides itself on maintaining its position of leadership in providing service beyond delivery through a staff of highly trained "team players" sharing a tradition of integrity, loyalty and responsiveness to the customer. And this philosophy of dedication to the team and service beyond expectations expands well beyond just their customer network.

Mark's Plumbing Parts also takes pride in their concern for the safety and well-being of their employees by going above and beyond to ensure they are cool, comfortable and most importantly, safe when the temperatures start to climb.

In the hot Texas summers, Mark's provided portable fans and evaporative coolers to help keep employees cool because the facility does not have a centralized HVAC system. These coolers and fans were strategically placed throughout the facility in an effort to cool employees down in the triple digit, midday summer heat, and ultimately protecting them against heat-related illnesses.

However, in order to move the fans to locations where they were the most effective, Mark's needed to utilize large,



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industrial extension cords throughout the warehouse area. These extension cords not only created a tripping hazard for employees, they also, as Mark's found out during a 2011 inspection by the Fire Marshal, create a potential fire hazard that needed to be addressed. Because they had no HVAC system, they definitely needed another cooling solution. "We knew we couldn't just remove the fans and not provide any alternative method of cooling," said Operations Manager for Mark's Plumbing Parts, Jason Marbut. "Since it wasn't even an option to not add an alternative, we started to look into other options to keep our employees cool as well as be compliant with the orders of the Fire Marshal, when we came across Kelley HVLS Fans," he added.

After consulting with Kelley HVLS fan expert, Craig Sommerfeldt with Miner Equipment Texas and visiting the Kelley Fan Lab located in Carrollton, TX for a competitive side-by-side comparison. Marbut elected to install three Kelley FUSION HVLS fans in the warehouse and stocking areas to ensure a safe and productive work environment for the warehouse employees that were busy picking, packing and shipping orders.

The Kelley FUSION HVLS fan is designed to create a comfortable environment while maintaining an energy efficient facility when used in addition to or in this case, in place of an HVAC system. Kelley fans are available

in a large selection of sizes and power configurations that are suitable for just about any environment, from warehouses to manufacturing facilities to sporting arenas and more. Mark's Plumbing Parts elected to install 12', 16' and 20' fans, strategically placed throughout the facility to gain the best air flow and circulation in between what is almost floor to ceiling racking. The



light-weight, high grade anodized, single piece aluminum blades of the Kelley fan produces a massive column of air that flows down toward the floor and outward in all directions before it is pulled back vertically toward the blades to create what is known as a horizontal floor jet. It is this floor jet that produces the circulation that provides the benefits Kelley fans have become known for over the years.

By creating this slow moving breeze at 2 to 3 miles per hour, many facilities have reported a reduction in perceived temperature equivalent to 7 to 11 degrees. And the cooling effectiveness of these fans has really been seen within the warehouse and shipping/receiving areas. "Not only have we seen a reduction in temperature," Marbut said,

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"but the sheer amount of air movement caused by the fans helps to keep the warehouse area from getting stuffy and humid. This assists in maintaining a consistent temperature in the building from June through September, when it climbs into the 100's outside, and big temperature fluctuations can be costly."

"The fans provide a lower operating cost for us," Marbut mentioned. "We typically see an increase in our energy consumption in the summer months of upwards of 30 percent, but running the fans on the optimal energy efficient setting of seven, it helps us manage that increase a little better." added Marbut. And managing this internal temperature of the building creates the opportunity for energy savings of up to 4 percent per degree change.

In addition to increasing energy efficiency and employee comfort, they have helped Mark's Plumbing Parts stay in compliance with fire regulations. All Kelley HVLS fans come standard with an industrial grade integrated motor/gear box assembly is lifetime rated and requires no maintenance. The advanced programmable VFD is mounted directly to the fan, factory wired and rated for extreme environments. This unique design provides a clean installation that removes all wiring and extension cords from the equation.

Furthermore, the 6-blade design provides the lowest solidity ratio in the industry, and allows fire suppression systems to work effectively. In addition, the drive system is compliant with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) HVLS large fan safety standards.

The Kelley HVLS fan has proven to be a great addition to Mark's Plumbing Parts by increasing employee comfort and providing a more energy efficient cooling option for the warehouse area. It has also helped to regulate the facility's temperature from floor to ceiling avoiding costly temperature changes and shifts all while keeping them compliant with local fire codes.

