Changing expensive cartridge filter elements at a rate of up to every 45 minutes, a hydroblasting operation in Rancho Cordova, California, has chosen to install a Lakos In-Line Separator . . . and now finds their replacement costs and downtime have been cut in half. The Separator is installed ahead of two 5-micron and two 1-micron cartridge filters, removing sand, scale, grit and other particle matter from whatever water source is available at the job site.

The hydroblasting system utilizes water at a pressure of 10,000 psi (700 kg/cm²). It’s used for cleaning concrete and heavy equipment and removing chipped paint from a variety of surfaces. A wet-blasting technique is used for removing highway markings from asphalt.

“We get everything from very good tap water to muddy, rusty water from a tank truck,” says Joe Miller, owner/operator of Miller Enterprises-Hydroblasting. “The Lakos Separator has saved us 50% in overall cartridge costs and downtime.”

At a cost of $42.00 per set of cartridge elements, Miller figures the Lakos Separator has paid for itself many times over. Maintenance on the separator is minimal, requiring only a 15-second manual purge of accumulated solids when necessary. No replacement elements and no shutdowns for cleaning are also real benefits to Miller.

The compact Lakos Separator (see photo) was easily retrofit on Miller’s portable hydroblaster system as a pre-filter to the cartridges (see illustration).