

Fenner Pillow Block Bearings are a Game-Changer For Car Wash Chain

Fenlon™

It's hard to imagine a more demanding environment for a steel bearing: constant exposure to water, containing a range of harsh contaminants: detergents, road and sea salt, and corrosive pH values.

Those are the conditions Fenner Drives faced when it was talking to a car wash chain about the bearings installed in the conveying equipment that moves vehicles through its automated car wash tunnels.

The company has anywhere from 30 to 100 bearings per tunnel in each of its more than 100 car washes, which stretch across the country and serve as many as a thousand cars a day. Those bearings need regular maintenance, in some cases, they need to be greased weekly.

It all adds up to a logistical challenge, as well as a hefty budget line item, for car washes. Currently, there are 18,000 in the U.S., most of them with tunnels that are at least partially automated.

Enter Fenner sales reps Tyler Hardy and Joe Nash, who had a secret weapon: a Fenlon polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) self-lubricating fabric that is perfect for bearing liners. Bearings using Fenlon PTFE liners not only do not require lubrication, but they also meet a variety of specifications for challenging aerospace, automotive, and industrial applications.

Fenner custom designed a Fenlon liner into a pillow-block bearing and manufactured a few sample bearings, which Hardy and Nash showed to the company's owner, who agreed to do a direct comparison to test the bearings.

The results were impressive. After the first six months, the bearings are still running maintenance-free, showing none of the corrosion that typically destroyed the steel pillow block ball bearing units that come standard with the automated car wash system. The company immediately placed an order for 40 more sample units, for a trial run at ten of the company's most demanding locations.

In addition to ending weekly lubrication tasks, the new Fenner bearings have eliminated the unplanned shutdowns that sometimes happened when the old bearings failed. That's a win-win for employees, avoiding the mess of greasing as well as the hassle and safety concerns of line shutdowns.

It also supports the company's sustainability efforts, cutting the company's consumption of lubricants, eliminating the pollution that sometimes results from over-greased bearings, dislodged seals, or lubricant spillages, and cutting the number of failed bearings that need to be scrapped.

CUSTOMER BENEFITS

- Reduced cost
- Eliminated downtime
- Decreased maintenance time
- Improved safety



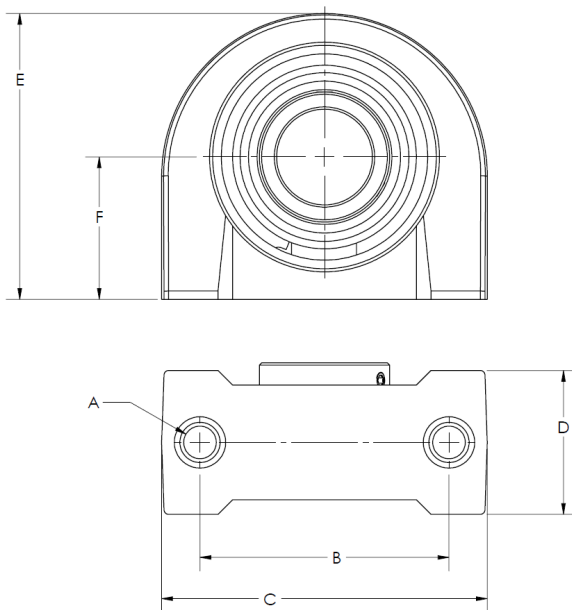
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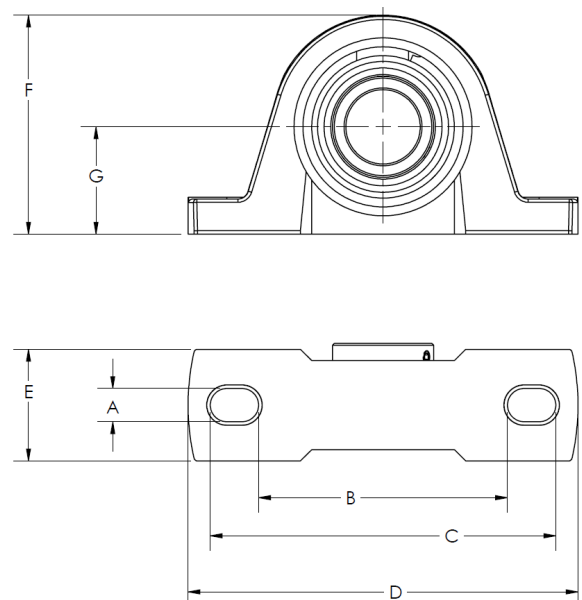
The Fenner Pillow Block Bearing with Fenlon™ liner is a drop-in replacement for standard bearings. A spherical plain bearing with a Fenlon PTFE liner, it is designed for oscillation, slow rotation, high loads, and heavy impacts. Its stainless-steel inner and outer bearing race and composite housing make the bearing corrosion-resistant, allowing it to operate even when exposed to water, chemicals, fuels, oils, and other contaminants.

“The new Fenner bearings not only reduce required maintenance but will cut our replacement costs and downtime,” the owner said. “Our maintenance people love them. They think they’re a game-changer for us and for the industry.”

Hardy, meanwhile, has embarked on a new crusade as a result: *“My goal is to eliminate grease in the car wash industry.”*



PBFL2070TB20



PBFL207020

Part Number	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Zerk	Bearing Type	Bore Size
PBFL2070TB20	1/2-13	3.25	4.3	1.9	3.7	1.86	—	No	207-SERIES	1-1/4"
PBFL207020	0.56	4.2	5.8	6.6	1.88	3.7	1.81	No	207-SERIES	1-1/4"