

Trayed Column - Flooding Due to a Mechanical Obstruction

Pre Job Info: The client was unable to meet their product specifications, and there were indications of liquid being carried overhead. The client suspected either foaming or flooding. There was no reliable pressure differential available for the tower.

TowerScan Results: The scan revealed the tower to be flooded from tray 12 upwards. The sharpness of the transition from a flooded condition to a normally operating tower above and below tray 12 indicated an obstruction in the tray 12 downcomer. As the tower had a history of solids (salts) building up on the trays, the customer performed a water wash of the tower, after which the tower's operation returned to normal.



Example of a Mechanical Obstruction Resulting in Flooded Trays

