Sustainable Manufacturing

Canyon Creek has been focused on sustainable manufacturing practices since 1991. Our long-standing commitment to the environment encompasses everything from recycling, energy and resource conservation to waste reduction, low-VOC finishes and sustainable products. In addition to our ongoing lean process improvement program, our efforts include:

Recycle, Reuse, Reduce

As a member of the By-Product Synergy Northwest (BPS NW) group, we meet with other companies to explore ideas for turning waste into resources and new products. Our wood wastes, such as sawdust and shavings, are collected and reused/repurposed by other group members. Through this program, we now purchase clean used rags (which used to be thrown away) from a local metal company.

We have other recycling programs in place to manage many forms of waste, such as cardboard, plastic, paper, metal and hazardous wastes.

Through our solvent recovery system (the still), we reclaim and reuse waste acetone used by the finish department. The hazardous waste from the still is turned into a cleaning solvent that is sold to metal companies for cleaning products, greatly reducing the solvent waste shipped off site.

Our purchase of 55-gallon drums of virgin acetone for line flushing in finish dropped from 200 drums to just 12 in one year.

Clean Air

» Our cabinets are in compliance with the California Air Resources Board (CARB), which places tough limits on formaldehyde emissions in products.

» Adhesives used in our cabinet box materials have No Added Urea Formaldehyde (NAUF), ensuring that all products—not just those shipped to California—are CARB-compliant.

» Our products have been granted 4-Star certification in Japan, which is even stricter than CARB. The 4-Star rating is Japan’s highest standard, representing the lowest amount of formaldehyde emissions.
Community Involvement

We've provided local charities with cabinets for a variety of housing programs, offices and even a mobile command center.

We frequently donate wood scrap to organizations that focus on projects that involve or directly benefit local youth.

Donations to the carpentry program at the Washington State Reformatory - Monroe Correctional Complex support efforts to prepare inmates for life after prison.

Financial contributions to organizations such as the YMCA of Snohomish County, Ronald McDonald House, Housing Hope and the Everett Community College Foundation benefit our local community.

With our cabinet donations, we support the efforts of Homes for our Troops, a national non-profit that helps build new homes designed for returning veterans with serious disabilities and injuries.

On The Road

Our delivery fleet meets another CARB regulation: Clean Idle Certification, which promotes clean diesel technology by greatly reducing the fine diesel particulates in exhaust.

For outside carriers, we specify SmartWay Partners. The EPA’s SmartWay program is designed to reduce transportation-related emissions by creating incentives to improve fuel efficiency.

Efficient Finish Department

» We continually develop new finishes that reduce VOC emissions while providing a durable, quality finish

» Stains and clear cloths are delivered from a central “paint kitchen” as needed, reducing waste from leftover material

» Spray guns are held in flush boxes that prep each gun for the next color, so only 2 guns are needed (not 40+)

Sustainable Products

» Beech is harvested exclusively from sustained-yield, natural forests

» Bamboo is an endlessly renewable resource

Alternatives to solid wood include:

» Exotic wood veneers that provide the beauty of rare woods while reducing the impact on global forests

» Greenlam, a GREENGUARD-certified laminate program, uses alternative fuels and recycled materials to help support a clean indoor air environment for homes

Manufacturing Efficiency

We continually replace air compressors, spray guns, and lighting throughout the plant, and the efficiency of our dust collection system contributes to reduced power usage. Our state-of-the-art dust collection system has an air recovery feature that brings warm, filtered air back into the building to provide heat during winter months.

To maximize product yield and eliminate waste when cutting material, our optimizer technology ensures that the most efficient, accurate cuts are made.

Canyon Creek utilizes a Packsize packaging system to reduce the amount of cardboard inventory and scrap generated. With this machine, an operator types in the size of the box needed and the machine makes it in 15 seconds. This has resulted in stocking just three sizes of flat cardboard instead of 200+ different boxes.