

What's Most Important

IS WHAT YOU DON'T SEE



It's easy to see Conestoga Wood Specialties' commitment to high quality craftsmanship; but what you don't see in our finished product is the responsibility and care we take in the renewable resources that are a part of Conestoga's longstanding core values. Responsible practices are built into our company's entire operation from our lumber procurement and dimensioning processes right through to the manufacturing of all of the products we make. Awareness and support of the environmental responsibilities that we all share is at the heart of everything we do. These are not newly discovered values, but deeply rooted principles that reflect who we are. Our Pennsylvania Dutch heritage laid the solid foundation for good stewardship in the use of our resources. Wastefulness has never been an option.

Sustainable

FORESTS

Conestoga is committed to supporting sustainable forestry, believing it is the key to protecting the environment and natural resources our industry depends on. The vast majority of our lumber is harvested and processed by companies that embrace sustainable, environmentally sound practices. In fact, much of our Cherry and Maple is sourced from Forest Stewardship Council certified forests in Pennsylvania, and nearly all our lumber is grown within 500 miles of a Conestoga facility. The loggers and saw mills that harvest this timber balance the never ending demand for forest products against the overall health of the forests.

Lumber

Purchasing lumber from sustainable, certified sources that employ environmental best management practices is important to our environment and maintaining the long term health of our forests, but making sure we maximize the raw lumber is important as well. Conestoga continually upgrades our equipment and grading techniques to ensure we utilize as much of the tree as possible while maintaining the high quality standards that our customers require. A state of the art lumber scanning system utilizes high speed digital photography and ultrasound to identify both surface and internal defects, minimizing waste. We also employ a proprietary grading system, lasers and thin blade technology to further increase our yields. Good stewardship demands continuous improvement.

Coatings & Finishes

Conestoga's commitment to the environment extends much further than the sourcing of our lumber. We constantly reformulate finishes to control VOC and HAP's emissions. Stains & glazes are hand applied, utilizing 40% less finishing materials than spray applications while providing much greater clarity. The use of automated flat lines to apply sealer and topcoats minimizes overspray and increases material transfer efficiencies. Mechanical proportioners cut the hazardous waste stream of paints by up to 20%. Distillation and recycling of clean up solvents results in 30% lower chemical usage and a centrifuge dramatically decreases the amount of hazardous waste byproducts.

INTERNAL Practices

Conestoga recycles everything we can. Sawdust is converted into composite building materials, cattle bedding and wood pellets and bricks for heat generation. We continually lower our use of corrugated packaging materials through the use of our Zero-Pack process, which ultimately minimizes packing waste. Tons of scrap metal, oil, computer monitors, fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, ink cartridges, and all types of paper and cardboard are recycled each year. Care for our environment is a mindset at Conestoga.

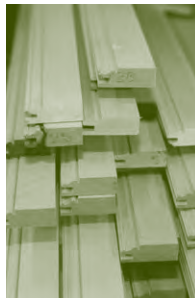
ENVIRONMENTAL Responsibility

Ecological responsibility is taken very seriously at Conestoga and our efforts and actions each day helps to support a healthy environment. There are many facets to our green initiatives that encompass nearly every segment of our business and are vital components to Conestoga being a green company.

- We manage our resources; not just the lumber we use to make our products, but we constantly explore new ways to reduce power consumption through process improvements and equipment upgrades.
- We purchase only composite materials that meet the California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulations for formaldehyde emissions; these are strictest guidelines in the United States.
- We work closely with adhesive suppliers to source low-VOC glues as well as low emitting or no added urea formaldehyde glues.
- We've developed paperless technology to process customer purchase orders; in fact, since the implementation of our paperless entry process, we've avoided using over 2 million sheets of paper.
- We work in our communities to help fund educational resource materials and events, help maintain outdoor recreational areas and beautify city landscapes by donating trees through our Urban Forestry Initiative.
- We've received environmental awards recognizing our efforts in the area of pollution avoidance.
- Conestoga was the first associate member of the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturer's Association to receive Environmental Stewardship Program certification. ESP certification approves our practices and procedures as they relate to air quality, product resource management, process resource management, community relations and environmental stewardship.

Our Deep Roots

Rooted in our heritage is a call to live simple lives. To be responsible with what we have been given and to manage it well. That makes it natural for us to embrace sound environmental practices. It's not new to us. It's who we are.



Conestoga Wood Specialties is a recipient of the Pennsylvania State Governor's Award of Environmental Excellence.



www.conestogawood.com

