



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**



## Marvin Windows and Doors: No Short-Cuts to Sustainability

Marvin Windows and Doors is a privately held, family-owned company that is used to taking the long-term view. The Marvin family recognizes that a serious commitment to sustainable operations is just good business. They believe in implementing environmentally friendly manufacturing processes and building sustainable communities in the USA, wherever Marvin products are manufactured.

That commitment holds true at the Marvin Windows and Doors facility in Ripley, TN. Walker Harmer, the Environmental Safety and Health Manager, is the face of that commitment. "There are no short-cuts to quality, and no short-cuts to being a sustainable company," said Walker.

As a manufacturer of high-end custom doors, every product is already sold before it is made. Business is good at Marvin and that adds up to a lot of material discards. To maintain the commitment to sustainability, Walker and other Marvin associates have to get creative.



- Member since 2004
- Employs 550
- Established in Ripley in 1980





“Wood waste is our primary discarded material,” said Walker, “and you would be surprised where it ends up.” If you attend the Lauderdale County Fair this year, you’ll be walking on wood shavings from Marvin. If you visit the St. Louis Zoo, most of the animal bedding includes Marvin’s wood wastes. Nearly 200 tons per month of wood waste from the Ripley facility are repurposed as livestock bedding or material for the local schools and wood shops. Not only is the wood at Marvin repurposed, it’s grown and harvested responsibly as well.

“All of the wood used in our doors is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council or the Sustainable Forestry Initiative,” said Walker. Both are non-profit organizations that advocate responsible management of the world’s forests to ensure that forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible way that takes into account economic viability, and social responsibility.

Made-to-order custom doors leave a lot of aluminum casement discards as well. 25,000 pounds of aluminum trimmings, on average, is generated every six weeks. While recycled casement aluminum is recycled through a vendor, aluminum can recycling, as well as some plastics, is donated to the Carl Perkins Child Abuse Center. Gently used pallets are bought by a local vendor and that revenue goes to St. Jude. Employees are involved in the community in more ways than recycling. The Relay for Life and the local Special Olympics are just two examples.

“Our purpose is to enrich the spaces where we live and work, and our future is to deliver on that purpose in new ways,” said Paul Marvin, 42, recently the first among the fourth generation of family members to take the helm of the window and door manufacturer, founded in northern Minnesota 105 years ago. Being a Green Star Partner is one way that Marvin Windows and Doors in Ripley, is enriching Tennessee.

The [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state, which are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining Marvin Windows and Doors and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.

