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Pallet Recycling & Waste Reduction

The Member

Lodge Manufacturing Company is a fourth generation family owned and operated business founded in 1896 by Joseph Lodge in South Pittsburg, Tennessee. As the last remaining domestic producer of cast iron cookware, Lodge has expanded its product lines to over 200 different items that serve the home and commercial markets, both here and overseas.

The Partner

Vermont Castings, well known for their high quality stoves and grills, has operations located in Bethel and Randolph, Vermont.

The Story

In 2006 Lodge purchased over 10,000 4-way wooden pallets. A majority of those pallets were #1 and #2 recycled grade pallets. Vermont Castings initially shipped their product on new, non-standard size pallets (24" x 36") with stapled cardboard sides. Lodge is not set up to accommodate smaller pallets. Some of these pallets were given away, but the majority were landfilled. Lodge has opted not to open burn for air quality reasons, although burning natural wood is exempt. The cardboard was recycled.

The Success

In late July 2007 Lodge requested that Vermont Castings change to a reusable,

standard size 4-way pallet. This change reduced the vendor's cost, since recycled pallets are less expensive, and virtually eliminated the need to landfill this vendor's pallets. Additionally, the handling time dropped because there are only 17 pallets on a truckload compared to the 34 that were originally being shipped. From a safety standpoint the elimination of staples to hold the boxes together also eliminated the potential of cuts. Lodge is now able to reduce the number of 4-way pallets purchased and will continue to reuse or recycle Vermont Casting's wooden pallets.

The Pollution Prevented

Partnering with Vermont Castings on this project saved Lodge \$2380 in pallet purchases and diverted approximately 900 pallets from the landfill in 2007. The number of pallets received annually depends on the number of shipments received from Vermont Castings, based on our sales volume and production capacity. Original estimates indicate that Lodge has the potential to divert some 2000 pallets and save over \$10,000 in pallet purchases per year.

It Just Keeps Getting Better....

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