



## **Our Environmental Values:**

### **Our Environment, Where We Live, Where We Work, and the Products We Sell**

**Howe** has a long history of commitment to preserving and protecting our vital natural resources and protecting the environment that we work and live in. The Company takes pride in its focus on responsible manufacturing and recycling through many programs and activities throughout our Company. We are focused on producing our products with environmentally sensitive materials, eliminating the waste of materials and energy, while creating a safe and clean environment for our workforce and communities in which we are located.

#### **Products with environmentally sensitive materials**

- The stains that we use on our products are mostly water-based.
- Cast iron table bases are produced from recycled engine blocks and other cast iron scrap. The Company recycles approximately 35,000 pounds of scrap iron daily.
- We have available non-phenol formaldehyde core material.
- Approximately 80% of our corrugated packaging is post-consumer, recycled material. Table base parts are wrapped in recycled newspaper.
- Our catalog promotes recycled textiles.
- Saw dust, produced from our wood factory, is sold to a converter who utilizes the material to produce other products such as particleboard.



## **Elimination of waste**

- In 2006 The University of Tennessee led a comprehensive lean initiative, helping us to reduce waste in our manufacturing operation. Equipment was consolidated, reducing electrical consumption. We have eliminated 60% of the floor space required to produce the same amount of furniture. This reduces power consumption, utilities, and allows the factory to operate more efficiently.
- Yield of raw materials is measured closely to insure that we are maximizing their use. This reduces cost to clients.
- Majority of all raw materials are purchased within 100 miles of our manufacturing location, which reduces fuel consumption.
- Scrap steel, wood, paper, and plastic are recycled at each office and plant location.

## **Our work and neighborhood environment**

- Paint system has filtration cartridge system, ensuring against accidental discharges
- All paint is electrostatic powder coat.
- Table base foundry utilizes a smokeless, electric furnace, totally eliminating atmospheric discharges.
- Laminates and wood edges are glued using water-based compounds.
- Fume extractors are installed in welding operations, eliminating fumes, creating a safe work environment.
- Sawdust collection systems are continually upgraded and expanded, creating a cleaner air quality in the factory.
- Employees are trained and compensated for presenting and implementing changes to reduce cost, create a safer work environment, or implement more energy efficient methods.
- We have an active safety program, reducing job related injuries.