



Hager Companies Minimizes Environmental Impact

Hager Companies has recently taken steps to minimize their organization's impact on the environment.

Manufacturing Process

Hager's manufacturing plant in Montgomery, Alabama, features an advanced wastewater pre-treatment facility that removes 98.5% of the soluble metals generated during manufacturing processes. In fact, this treatment facility is so effective it was named "Treatment Plant of the Year" in 2002 by the Alabama Water Environment Association.

The facility separates the wastewaters generated in order to minimize the chemicals needed for treatment operations and to permit recycling of certain materials. Lubricants from the fabrication operations are separated from the water in Hager's wastewater treatment facility, and are then sent out for recycling; solids from the plating operations are removed through a wastewater clarifier, pressed into "filter cake," then sent out for additional processing to be disposed of as non-hazardous waste.

The facility has implemented advanced filtration and ION exchange technologies in wastewater operations that produce water so clean similar technologies were implemented in production operations. Filtration units have been installed on facility processes that have extended the useful life of some solutions from one week to a useful life of more than one year. Hager is also currently conducting feasibility studies for a reverse osmosis system that would eliminate the need for the Montgomery plant to discharge any water at all into the city's municipal system.

Hager's Montgomery plant has also achieved:

- ▶ 68.2% overall reduction in water usage (1998-2007)
- ▶ 87% reduction in soluble metals in wastewater (1998-2007)
- ▶ 40,127,000 fewer gallons of water used per year
- ▶ 65.1 % overall reduction in hazardous waste (2001-2007)
- ▶ Significant energy savings from switching facility lighting to fluorescent lighting

Hager's Montgomery plant continues to think green by:

Implementing ongoing recycling programs for scrap metals and corrugated products.

Implementing new environmentally friendlier finishes (with more in development).

Corporate Initiatives

In another effort to reduce the company's environmental impact, Hager now uses product packaging that contains 20% recycled content. Hager has also joined forces with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and its certified printing companies to produce the company's marketing materials. The FSC is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests and sets high standards to ensure that forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way.

"Our association with the FSC led us to rethink the paper stocks on which we print our marketing materials," said Donnell Siebert, Hager's Vice President of Marketing and Product Development.

"For example, simply by choosing a new paper made with certified renewable energy and containing 10% post-consumer waste fiber for one of our company's larger brochures, we were able to save 15 trees, consume 5,455 gallons less of wastewater flow, save 10,000,000 BTUs of energy, prevent 1,664 lbs. net greenhouse gases, and generate 903 fewer pounds of solid waste."

"On a smaller scale," Siebert continued, "Hager employees are recycling paper and other items here at our company's headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri, as well as at our other offices nationwide. We believe that every step we can take, no matter how large or small, is a good step in helping to preserve our environment for generations to come. And we encourage everyone to look for ways to do the same."