

Roppe Corporation - Environmental Statement

OUR COMPANY PHILOSOPHY

A man of vision founded Roppe in 1955. That vision was to create a manufacturing environment that fostered not just a good work environment, but also the desire to seek excellence in all things. An environment that encouraged the ideals of integrity, accountability, and respect for one another and our surroundings.

It is not surprising that this vision would lead to success. We have grown and prospered. We have carried our success over into the community and become part of our community. But that alone is no longer enough. With our growth comes a responsibility, to our employees, to our community, and to our fellow man. By its very nature, this philosophy includes a deep commitment to the environment.

In a time when manufacturers are often hesitant to take these kinds of steps, Roppe has made a strong commitment to help keep our planet green. This promise means that we spend both time and money to "do the right thing" and to do it the right way for the benefit of the community. Don Miller, Chairman of the board of Roppe Holding Company, has summed up our philosophy this way: Roppe's outlook is that we are accountable for all resources we use. We recognize that we have an obligation to our employees, our customers, and our community. We know that adhering to this principle will not only benefit future generations, but will also actually strengthen our company in the long run."

Acting on this commitment, Roppe has created programs for preventing pollution, improving efficiencies, and developing clean and sustainable technologies. Now in our 6th decade, these ideals continue to be the inspiration for what we do.

A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Roppe's Distribution Center has created its own distinctive neighbor --the Pheasant's Forever preserve. When we decided to build our new storage facility, one of our first concerns was to properly integrate the new Center into its natural setting. The challenge: to construct the new site in an environmentally friendly manner.

In keeping with our commitment of being accountable, Roppe set aside 47 acres (out of the total of 62 we purchased) specifically as wildlife preserve. The preserve has been carefully planned. Research on the various species of natural grasses was conducted so that the right types could be planted. A natural tree line was retained; more trees were planted; and a natural creek was improved. Finally, a pond was built to add to the setting. Improvements are continuously being made. This careful planning allows the "natural inhabitants," including a wide variety of native waterfowl, to flourish undisturbed by the activity near it. Roppe feels that we are, indeed "tenants" and we are proud to share the land constructively with its natural residents.

January 20, 2003, State Senator Randy Gardner Acknowledged Roppe's Outstanding Environmental Record, Community Service with an Environmental Citizenship Award.

BEING GREEN IS JUST A PROMISE UNTIL YOU *DO* SOMETHING

A Wasteful Society: Take-Make-Waste

Did you know that industry moves, mines, extracts, shovels, burns, wastes, pumps, and disposes of one million pounds of material in order to provide one average, middle class American family their needs for one year?

The take-make-waste system is nothing new. Since the industrial revolution, industry has been guilty of taking whatever natural resource was available, without considering future consequences. America has finally woken up to the fact that these practices are endangering our lives and the lives of future generations.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ACTION

Roppe has consistently been at the forefront in addressing this situation. We are constantly striving to find ways to reduce the amounts of resources we take and that we waste...with interesting results!

Scrap Material is not thrown away. Instead, it is "recycled" -- it is sent to other manufacturers to be used in their manufacturing processes. For example, the sandings from our rubber tile operation are not thrown out. They are carefully collected and sent to a company that uses them in the construction of indoor running tracks, outdoor walking trails, and mulch for landscaping and children's playgrounds.

Similarly, the company has installed a new, high tech "dust collector" at Seneca Millwork (our wood molding subsidiary). Woodworking manufacturing produces thousands of "wood dust" particles. This giant apparatus prevents these particles from entering the city's atmosphere.

Roppe Corporation is also concerned about those products that are being removed from our existing building or waste material left over from any new construction. In our efforts, to help reduce the amount of waste materials going into our landfills nation wide, we have sought and received approval to use our products as an "alternative" fuel in cement kilns.

OUR COMMITMENT TO ACTION (continued)

In addition, during the manufacturing process, many other scrap materials are recycled. They are saved and sent back to our vendor. These materials are then incorporated into new products, which are again sent back to us for manufacturing.

Emission Reduction

For many manufacturers, materials used in the manufacturing process can include (or result in) products that are considered hazardous or toxic by OSHA & EPA. In Roppe's products, almost all of the resulting chemicals are actually encapsulated into the finished product, resulting in a safe product and eliminating any environmental concerns.

During the manufacturing of some of our products, small emissions of VOCs can be released into the atmosphere. Even though we are within legal guidelines, Roppe has been actively working towards the goal of reducing all emissions. In 1998, our emissions were 20% of what they were 10 years ago, even though production has continued to INCREASE.

OUR PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Safe, Non-Toxic Products

We're proud that all of our products are considered non-toxic, and environmentally friendly. It's important to us that not only do we make them safely; they will also be used safely, and will remain this way as part of their new environment.

We Only Sell Safe Adhesives

When we talked about emissions during manufacturing, it's important to note that we've also taken steps to try to reduce the amount of emissions after our products are sold. When our products are used on a job site, we know that many adhesives used by contractors are highly- solvent, creating high emissions during the installation process. By converting from solvent-based adhesives to either solvent free or very low solvent adhesives, we've succeeded in a drastic reduction of emissions from the installation of our finished products. As a matter of fact, we will only sell and recommend the use of safe adhesives with our products.

Longevity of Rubber Flooring = Conservation

When our rubber is chosen for an installation (such as a school building), often one of the main reasons for it being chosen over VCT is that rubber tile lasts much longer and requires very little maintenance. Not only is this a cost savings for the customer, it also by its very nature an immense energy saver! Just think of the immense savings over years and years - savings in energy, manpower, materials, and the elimination of strippers and waxes.

We are pleased to be part of this ongoing conservation, which is no small fact when you consider the thousands of buildings installed with Roppe rubber floors.

Green Product Examples

Roppe also sells Recoil Fitness Flooring. This durable product is made from 100% recycled materials, and has a variety of uses including weight room, exercise and workout areas, and athletic facilities.

Rop-Cord tile is a 90% post-consumer waste tile that is produced from recycled heavy duty bus, truck and airplane tires. It is extremely durable and will withstand indoor and outdoor applications.

ROPPE EMPLOYEES' IN-PLANT RECYCLING PROGRAM AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In addition to the recycling within our plant, we wanted to encourage our employees to do even more. Many of them did not have the means to recycle their common household items, so we set up a program to make it easy for them to bring these items into work.

Convenient "stations" were set up around the plant. Employees were encouraged to bring their items in at any time (not just certain days). These items included newspapers, cardboard, recyclable plastic, etc.

The program was a huge success. But then a question arose – how would we use any funds generated from the recycling? A committee was formed, and it was decided to establish the Roppe College Scholarship Fund. Through this fund, any child of any Roppe employee who is attending college services receives financial aid. Each year, thousands of dollars are equally distributed among all the applicants. We're extremely pleased that our program has had such a positive impact.

Through the program, Roppe employees continue to increase their quantities of recycled home products. For example, in an average year our employees have recycled:

Aluminum Cans	1,120 lbs.
Plastic (pop containers, milk containers, detergent containers)	2,385 lbs.

MARKETING

Marketing Products

Roppe makes every effort to promote the ecology in the marketing of our many products. In addition to providing "environmentally friendly" flooring and adhesives, we've also altered production methods within existing product lines to promote the production of green products.

In 2004, Roppe dedicated a new brand, Eco Effects, to denote the products that can be specified in green building designs. Eco Effects products can be found on our standard website easily by looking for the logo or by clicking the logo on the homepage that will take you directly to the micro-site where only green products can be found.

In 2006, Roppe sent many of our products and adhesives to be tested for indoor air quality. By partnering with the CHPs (Collaborative for High Performance Schools) program, Roppe was assured that the testing would be stringent. However, once completed our products and adhesives could carry the seal of the CHPs organization which is recognized as a leader in standardizing indoor air quality in educational facilities.

IN CONCLUSION

We, The Roppe Corporation, promise that we will continue to strive to find new and better ways to help save our precious natural resources and promote a healthier environment. Our goal is to provide the best we can for future generations. Our hope is our strong belief in the power of mankind.

We CAN make a difference in our world, one installation at a time.