

Omega Cabinetry

CASE
SUMMARY

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OMEGA CABINETS, LTD

Waterloo, Iowa
Black Hawk County

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The Company

Omega Cabinetry, Ltd., a division of MasterBrands, Inc., is the second largest cabinetry manufacturer in North America and a leading manufacturer of custom wood cabinetry for the home, bath, and kitchen.

Project Background

Omega Cabinetry had several projects that needed attention. The main focus of the projects was to perform an environmental impact study to identify waste reduction opportunities and ways to reduce associated costs.

Incentives to Change

Omega Cabinetry is highly interested in continual environmental improvement. It has a Waste Management System in practice, participates in a pollution prevention program and seeks opportunities to improve overall environmental standing. Omega desires to reduce waste generation, divert waste streams from the landfill, improve recycling programs and operational characteristics, and increase cost savings.

Results

Identified opportunities to improve environmental performance and allow for cost savings are presented below.

Reclaim of Wood Waste (Panels and Custom Purchased Items)

It was determined that a significant amount of generated wood waste could be reclaimed and then reworked. Reclaim of panels would save 7.5 tons of raw material per year, 77.25 tons of wood waste and allow for \$87,437 in savings. The estimated annual cost savings from reclaim and rework of custom purchased items would be an additional \$25,614.

Paper, cardboard, metal scrap and shrink wrap recycling

An analysis of the current recycling system was performed. It was observed that significant quantities of recyclable materials are landfilled. In particular,



the paper recycling system had been partially discontinued. Improvements to the recycling system were done, including diversion of paper, cardboard, and metal scrap from the landfill. As a result, recycling effectiveness was improved, and the total savings from paper/cardboard/metal scrap recycling are expected to be \$9,375. A significant part of Omega Cabinets waste is shrink-wrap. However, this material was not recycled. According to preliminary estimates, about 214 tons of shrink wrap would be diverted from the landfill annually and result in savings of \$7,133.46.

Cyclomat study

Data was collected on the performance characteristics and environmental impact of this equipment. According to the study, installation of the plural component proportioning system (Cyclomat) would result in 2,375 gallons per year in waste reduction and \$73,458 in economic cost savings.



Solvent distillation system

The installation of a Solvent Distillation System would annually save 150 drums (7500 gal) of waste and \$53,000 in associated costs.

Exhaust filters for spray booths

Preliminary estimates revealed that using different exhaust filters would be advantageous. This project has the potential to save three tons of liquid waste a year and result in annual savings of \$77,129.

Project Summary Table

Project Description	Environmental Impact	Economic Cost Savings	Status
Reclamation of Wood Waste			
•Custom Pieces	•300 pieces	•\$25,614/year	•Recommended
•Panel Reclaim	•77.2 tons/year	•\$87,437/year	•Recommended
Recycling			
•Paper	•106.3 tons/year	•\$5,732/year	•Implemented
•Cardboard	•8.6 tons/year	•\$2,449/year	•Recommended
•Metal scrap	•1.6 tons/year	•\$1,193/year	•Recommended
•Shrink wrap	•214 tons/year	•\$7,133/year	•In process
Cyclomat Study	2,375 gallons/year	\$73,458	Implemented
Solvent Distillation	•150 drums •7,500 gallons/year	\$53,000	Planned
Exhaust Filters	3.1 tons/year	\$77,129	Recommended
Total	•411.5 tons/year •9,875 gallons/year •300 pieces/year	\$331,149.4/year	