

f o r w a r d f o c u s



## A material difference.

A product is only as sustainable as the materials used to manufacture it. At VT, we let this simple tenet guide our decision making with regard to raw material selection. Our ultimate goal is to produce VT Architectural Wood Doors, Laminate Countertops, and Butcher Block Countertops with the most efficient use of natural resources, while creating healthy working and living environments.

### ***Sustainable materials in. Sustainable products out. The first rule of Forward Focus.***



#### **Architectural Wood Doors**

VT Architectural Wood Doors are manufactured using pre-consumer recycled particleboard cores and high-density fiberboard (HDF) crossbands for optimal raw material efficiency. VT cores, stiles, rails, crossbands, laminates, and veneers are also available in FSC® certified options.

By using no-added-urea-formaldehyde, Type 1 adhesives, VT eliminates Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and other emissions from the interior of a building. And no-added-urea-formaldehyde components are available upon request. Our Heritage doors also come with a water-based stain as the factory finish.

All VT composite wood materials meet California Air Resources Board (CARB) II & Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) Title VI standards, and all laminates are GREENGUARD GOLD Certified.



#### **Dimensions Laminate Countertops**

VT Dimensions Laminate Countertops are manufactured using pre-consumer recycled particleboard and MDF substrates. These materials, along with our plywood substrates, meet CARB Phase II and TSCA Title VI standards for formaldehyde emissions. FSC certified cores and laminates are also available.

All VT countertops are manufactured using water-based, no-added-urea-formaldehyde adhesives. Additionally, our EQcountertops contain no-added-urea-formaldehyde composite woods. VT also offers laminates from leading manufacturers that are GREENGUARD GOLD Certified.



#### **CenterPointe Butcher Block Countertops**

You can be confident when choosing VT CenterPointe countertops. Hevea and Acacia woods are harvested sustainably, resulting in less waste and reduced emission of greenhouse gases. Acacia wood plantations play an important role in reducing greenhouse gases. Known as the most ecologically friendly lumber in today's furniture industry. Hevea is harvested after it completes its latex producing cycle and dies.

# 0 pollutants

VT uses no-added-formaldehyde, Type 1 adhesives with zero hazardous pollutants, which helps to improve a building's indoor air quality.

# 5,000 tons

5,000 tons of sawdust from production is diverted annually from landfill to agricultural uses.



## **Operating with a purpose.**

At VT, we are constantly monitoring and adapting our manufacturing processes to reduce the impact they have on the environment. We use a significant amount of recycled materials in the production of VT products, and we also repurpose the byproducts of our operations whenever possible. Other lean manufacturing practices are in place to help reduce waste and drive down the delivered cost of VT products.

## **Making the most of every action taken. Another aspect of Forward Focus.**

### **Waste Management**

All aspects of VT's production processes are evaluated in order to keep waste at a minimum. In our plants, we collect paper, cardboard, metal, and plastic strapping, wood pallets, plastic used in packaging, and plastic barrels for recycling. 147 tons of materials were recycled in 2011 alone at our corporate facility.

Approximately 5,000 tons of sawdust created in production is diverted annually from landfill to agricultural uses, such as livestock bedding, and compost. And we are currently working on a new initiative to divert an additional 2,000 tons of sawdust per year to the same end uses.

Lean manufacturing is a core principle of VT. We're committed to operating as efficiently and effectively as possible, which ultimately results in more environmentally friendly outcomes.

Our Holstein plant has seen a 48% reduction in scrap since 2008, and our Texas facility scrap is a noteworthy 0.75% of raw materials.



### **Energy Management**

VT has made many upgrades in energy efficiency throughout our manufacturing plants. For instance, high-efficiency T5 fluorescent lights have replaced metal halide lamps, helping our Hagerstown, Maryland plant reduce its energy consumption by 43% and our Bryan, Texas plant to reduce its energy consumption by over 50%. In 2010, the Bryan plant was given an "Energy Saver" award from the Department of Energy (DOE) for this achievement.



### **Emission Management**

Reducing hazardous emissions from our production processes is naturally a priority at VT. Our largest manufacturing facility in Holstein, Iowa, complies with the emissions requirements of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, operating with VOCs and HAPs of 30% and 4%. Per unit produced, our HAPs have been reduced by 87% over a 6-year period.

### **Safety Management**

Valuing the safety of our employees above all else, VT is committed to operating with zero accidents or injuries. This focus has enabled us to reduce recordable incidents by 51% companywide since 2006, outpacing the average incident rate of wood product manufacturers at last reporting.



### **Knowledge and Education**

It stands to reason that environmentally conscious policies and practices are possible only through the efforts of knowledgeable professionals. At VT, we have several LEED® Accredited Professionals on hand to assist with our customers' LEED questions and requirements. We also offer continuing education programs that meet AIA Sustainable Design requirements, as well as an FSC Training Program to assist our customers with FSC Chain of Custody Certification.

Even our Customer Service department is engaged with our environmental commitment. We've gone paperless with the quote process, enabling us to use 410,000 fewer sheets of paper in 2011 than we did in 2010. And an active recycling program is in place in our service areas, just as it is on our manufacturing floors.

1<sup>st</sup>

VT was the first architectural wood door manufacturer to earn GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certification and GREENGUARD GOLD Certification. We are also the first and only manufacturer to offer GREENGUARD Certified postformed laminate countertops.

# Forward Focus guides us to responsible action.



Actions taken today have a direct impact on future generations. That's the guiding principle upon which sustainable efforts are founded—and it's the reason why VT Industries incorporates **Forward Focus** into everything we do.

VT's commitment to environmental responsibility through **Forward Focus** begins with our people and is evident in all aspects of our operation, from the careful selection of raw materials, to processes that help reduce our manufacturing footprint, to the efficient means we employ to deliver our products.

Industry certifications speak to the sustainability of VT products. For example, VT was the first architectural wood door manufacturer to be GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® and UL GREENGUARD Gold Certified. VT also manufactures EQcountertops—the industry's only UL GREENGUARD Certified postformed laminate countertop offering.

We invite you to discover the many more ways that VT's **Forward Focus** can provide the confidence in knowing you're choosing a sustainable building option.

## The proof is in the product.

Nothing speaks to the sustainability of VT products better than the certifications they have earned, which include many industry firsts and exclusives. These certifications instill confidence that choosing VT is an environmentally responsible decision. They also help VT products contribute credit toward the LEED® certification of your building.

Always working on the next generation of environmentally friendly products and processes. That's what Forward Focus is all about.

### Architectural Wood Doors

- FSC® certified since 2002—among the first in the industry to be certified
- FSC Chain of Custody certified\*
  - Holstein License #: FSC-C005590
  - Eggers License #: FSC C019991
- First architectural wood doors to be GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® and GREENGUARD GOLD Certified
- LEED assistance is available—contact VT to request our LEED Opportunity Brochure
- Published Health Product Declaration
- 3rd party verified Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)
  - Net global warming potential credit

\*Available for most door types. FSC claims vary from FSC Mix 87% to FSC Mix 100%. Claims are dependent on FSC material availability.

### Dimensions Laminate Countertops

- Only GREENGUARD Certified postformed laminate countertops
- Only FSC certified manufacturer with nationwide coverage — License #: FSC-C103836
- Available LEED assistance for homes and new construction

### CenterPoint Wood Countertops

- Both Hevea and Acacia are harvested with responsible forest management practices
- Hevea is the most ecologically friendly wood in the lumber industry

### GLOSSARY

#### FSC®:

The Forest Stewardship Council certifies wood promotes sustainability through forest management and chain of custody standards.

#### LEED®:

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system encourages use of building materials and resources that are sustainable and low-emitting.

#### UL GREENGUARD:

UL GREENGUARD Certification guarantees low-emitting products, which means fewer VOCs for buildings and homes.

#### SCS:

SCS Global Services certifies that products meet environmental standards and practice social responsibility.



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