



GREEN WINDOW TREATMENTS BY A GREEN COMPANY

People



Processes



Products



**SWFcontract**



### **THE BEST EXPERIENCE COMPANY**

The essence of Springs Window Fashions is to create the Best Experience for associates, customers and consumers by establishing product quality, innovation and service standards by which the industry is measured.

### **OUR PLEDGE**

As part of our Best Experience philosophy, we commit our people, processes and products to improving the environment and passing clear benefits along to our customers. Springs Window Fashions is building upon its strong history of social responsibility, while at the same time, working toward a **greener** future.

**SPRINGS WINDOW FASHIONS**  
the Best Experience Company 

  
Green<sup>TM</sup>  
by NATURE

# Partnerships and Certifications

Springs Window Fashions views “green” as more than a short-term trend, and our environmental claims are not based on fluff or hype – but rather supportable data and hard facts. We’re proud to be affiliated with the following organizations that share our vision of sustainability and responsibility.

**United States Green Building Council (USGBC)** Springs Window Fashions is a member of the USGBC, a non-profit consensus coalition promoting the understanding, development and accelerated implementation of green buildings. The USGBC is well-known and respected among members of the building industry as the developer of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building certification process – which is the nationally-accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.



**GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI)** The GEI has established performance-based standards to define goods with low chemical and particle emissions for use indoors – primarily building materials. The standard establishes certification procedures, including test methods, allowable emissions levels, product sample collection and handling, testing type and frequency and program application processes and acceptance. Several Springs Window Fashions’ Solar Shades are manufactured with GREENGUARD-certified fabrics from Phifer.



**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** Springs Window Fashions is a member of the EPA Energy Star corporate energy management program, which helps protect the environment by managing energy strategically across the entire organization. Springs Window Fashions has an Energy Awareness Team that drives energy conservation projects throughout the entire company and takes steps to engage associates in energy conservation efforts.



**OEKO-TEX** The International OEKO-TEX Association tests fabrics for harmful substances using the latest scientific findings to ensure textiles meet the highest human ecological safety standards. Several Springs Window Fashions’ Solar Shades are manufactured with OEKO-TEX Standard 100-certified textiles from Montreal Woolens.



**URS Corporation** Springs Window Fashions “green” initiatives recently were audited to The Greenhouse Gas Protocol standard by URS, a leading provider of engineering, construction and technical services for public agencies and private sector companies around the world.



**Green Built Home** This organization promotes green building practices by certifying new homes and remodeling projects that meet sustainable building and energy standards. Springs Window Fashions products are registered to be used in Green Built Home projects which are completed in conjunction with the Wisconsin Environmental Initiative (WEI).



At Springs Window Fashions, being “green” isn’t just a fad or a label on a product – it’s deeply embedded in both the nature of our company and our products. This commitment to respecting the earth has been a long-term part of our culture and a philosophy that guides us as we conduct business each day. As a socially-responsible company, we’re constantly searching for ways to reduce waste, save energy, eliminate hazardous materials and improve indoor air quality to lessen our impact on the environment. Our people, processes and products are all key components of this commitment.

**Our People** are personally invested in creating a healthier working environment and a more eco-friendly community in which to raise their families. They participate in an extensive office recycling program and more importantly, they also develop and implement ideas that help us to remain as environmentally-conscious as possible.

**Our Processes** are designed to divert as much industrial waste as possible from our local landfills. Plastic scrap from injection molding and extrusion at our Middleton facility is reground and reused, while our Grayling wood plant recycles more than 4,500 tons of sawdust annually. Overall, nearly 100 percent of our plastic waste is recycled.

**Our Products** inherently save energy and reduce UV damage. Plus, recycled content – plastics, metals and fabrics – are a part of Springs Window Fashions’ manufactured products. Several solar shade fabrics emit low volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and are manufactured with GREENGUARD-certified fabrics from Phifer. Our natural shades promote the use of renewable materials like bamboo, jute and grasses.

These initiatives reflect Springs Window Fashions’ core values of continuous improvement and dedication to creating the best experience for our customers, associates and the communities in which we live and do business. We vow that our environmental initiatives always will be connected back to a real consumer need or benefit and that our eco-friendly claims will be supported by solid statistics. For instance, we have joined the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), a non-profit consensus coalition of builders that developed the nationally-accepted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building certification process.

While we realize that being “green” is a journey with no end-point, we are continuing along the path that we began paving nearly a decade ago. As an industry leader in environmentally-sound window coverings, Springs Window Fashions truly is “green by nature.”



**SCOTT FAWCETT** | CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | SPRINGS WINDOW FASHIONS



965 ton  
reduction of  
Springs Window  
Fashions' carbon  
footprint during  
2005 and 2006.

TOM RODGERS | GREEN TEAM LEADER | MIDDLETON

“MY TEAM IS COMMITTED TO EXAMINING ALL ASPECTS OF SPRINGS WINDOW FASHIONS’ BUSINESS THROUGH A **GREEN** FILTER AND CONTINUOUSLY MAKING OUR COMPANY MORE ECO-FRIENDLY. OUR CORPORATE **GREEN TEAM** CONSTANTLY BRAINSTORMS WAYS TO STAY AT THE FOREFRONT OF ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY PRACTICES - AS PART OF OUR GOAL OF BEING THE BEST EXPERIENCE COMPANY.”

# Our Products



By design, all window coverings are inherently “green” because they block solar heat gain and reduce UV damage inside commercial interiors. However, products from Springs Window Fashions’ brands – Bali®, Graber® and Nanik® – go above and beyond in terms of eco-friendliness. Not only are our products manufactured in high recycling facilities, but we take pride in examining each of our product families to make sure that those deemed “green” offer specific benefits and return on investment to end-users in the form of healthier, more energy-efficient buildings.

Nearly every Springs Window Fashions product is constructed with recycled materials including plastics, metals and fabrics. Several products feature additional “green” attributes:

- 🌿 **Solar Shades** offer GREENGUARD certified low VOC emission fabrics.
- 🌿 **Wood Blinds and Shutters** are manufactured of domestic basswood – a material that is available in considerable supply. Consequently, the need to harvest new materials is reduced and the transportation emissions that result from importing foreign wood are diminished.
- 🌿 **Cellular Shades** boast “R-values” of two through five, which indicate a strong resistance to heat from warm outdoor temperatures. Their unique cellular design forms pockets of air that insulate windows from heat and cold to conserve energy all year-round.
- 🌿 **Cellular Shades** constructed of *Garden Retreat* and *Gallantry* fabric include 25 percent recycled content, which is certified from DuPont.®
- 🌿 **Natural Shades** feature the use of renewable materials like bamboo, jute and grasses.



**“MY TEAM AND I PLAY AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN REDUCING WASTE AT SPRINGS WINDOW FASHIONS BY PACKAGING EACH PRODUCT EFFICIENTLY – WITHOUT EXCESS WASTE. IT’S REWARDING TO BE HANDS-ON IN CREATING A GREENER ENVIRONMENT AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR MY FAMILY.”**

**SHAWN DRAGER**

MANAGER OF PACKAGING ENGINEERING | MIDDLETON



43 million  
pounds of industrial  
waste recycled.

BRAD MAU | RECYCLING MANAGER | MIDDLETON

“I’M HELPING TO RECYCLE OVER 75 PERCENT OF OUR FACILITY’S TOTAL  
WASTE EACH YEAR.”

# Our People



Respecting the environment and creating a “green” culture requires the dedication of all Springs Window Fashions’ employees – from the factory associates who manufacture our window coverings, to the office staff who strive to create a healthier working environment, to our corporate “green team” that meets regularly to brainstorm and implement the most efficient and effective ways to incorporate eco-friendly practices into our products and facilities – all without sacrificing the superior quality of our products.

We believe that every day presents multiple opportunities for our employees to “go green.”

- 🌿 Recycling bins for aluminum, plastic, paper, toner and cardboard are conveniently positioned throughout our offices.
- 🌿 Office machines – such as computers, copiers and printers – are Energy Star-rated and set to time-out in power saver mode when not in use.
- 🌿 All office lighting has been switched to best-in-class T8 fixtures for maximum energy savings.
- 🌿 Four-cylinder vehicles for field sales associates receive 5,000-mile service inspections that allow for peak fuel efficiency, while in-vehicle routing and mapping software optimizes call routes to save gas.
- 🌿 Plant and office workers are encouraged to share their ideas for “greener” products and processes.



**“SINCE I’M ON THE ROAD SO OFTEN, I’M PROUD TO DRIVE A VEHICLE THAT GETS GOOD MILEAGE AND USES A ROUTING OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE MY FUEL CONSUMPTION.”**

**JULIE STIMSON** | FIELD SALES ASSOCIATE

90 million  
gallons of water  
saved every year.



TOM FREY | MAINTENANCE MECHANIC | MIDDLETON

“I’M MAKING CERTAIN THAT SPRINGS WINDOW FASHIONS PROACTIVELY  
MINIMIZES THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT FROM OUR MANUFACTURING  
OPERATIONS BY MANAGING OUR CLOSED-LOOP WATER COOLING SYSTEM.”



# Our Processes

Continuously examining and upgrading our eco-friendly manufacturing processes is a charge that Springs Window Fashions takes very seriously. Being “green” is both beneficial for business and creates a best experience for our employees, partners and end-users. As a result, we regularly surpass legislative environmental mandates, rather than just merely abiding by local, state and federal requirements.

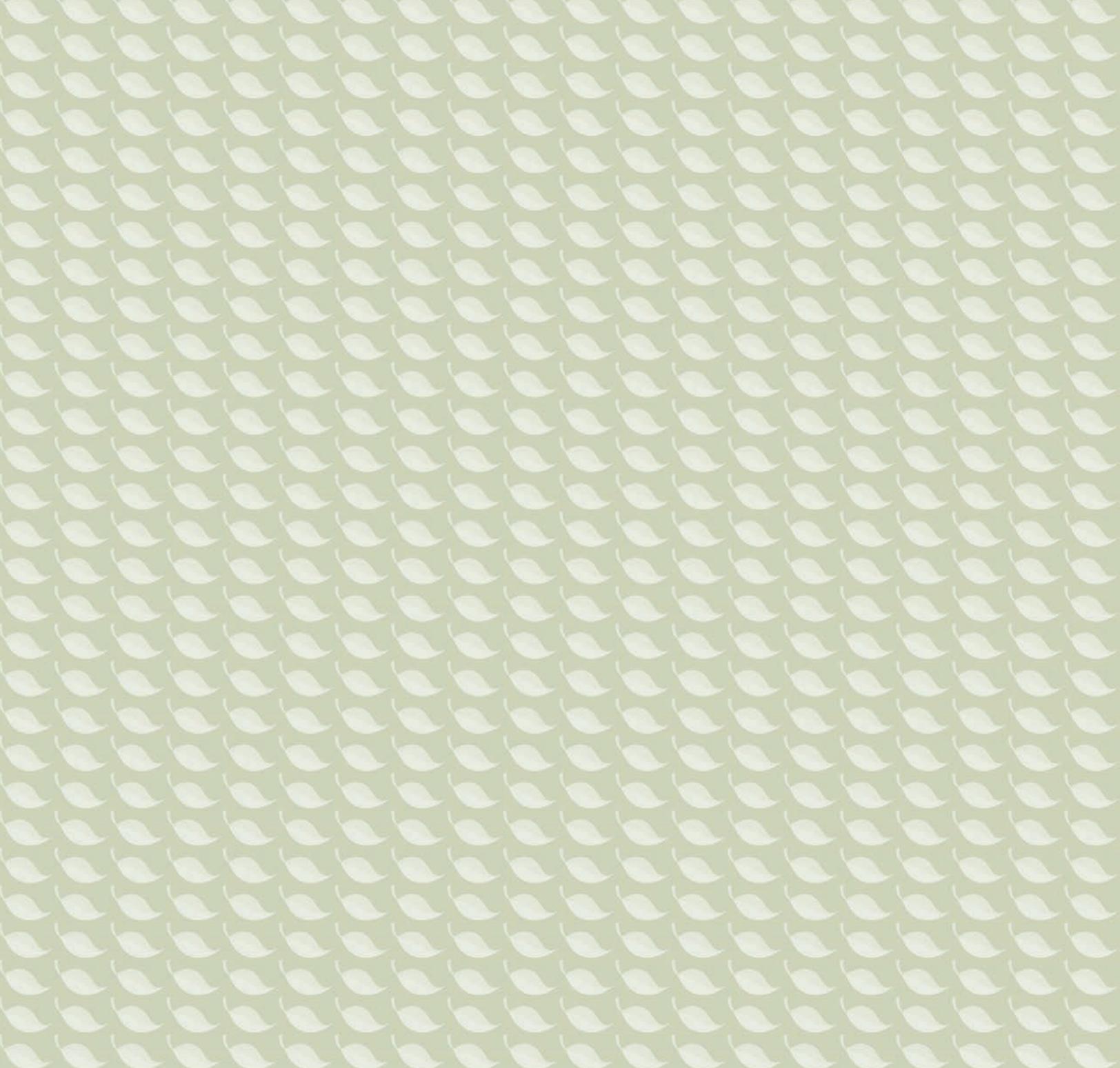
The numbers truly speak for themselves:

- 🌿 **43 million pounds** of industrial waste generated in our Middleton facility have been recycled and diverted from landfills over the past 10 years.
- 🌿 **90 million gallons** of water are saved every year due to the installation of a closed-loop water cooling system for plastics manufacturing at Middleton.
- 🌿 More than **4,500 tons** of sawdust are recycled annually in a “waste to energy” program at our Grayling wood plant. More than 99 percent of our total sawdust is transformed into energy to fire the kilns and heat the factory – or is converted to wood stove pellets.
- 🌿 A **71 percent** reduction in airborne emissions has occurred in Middleton since 2000. Exhaust air scrubbers have been added at this facility to reduce VOCs by 52 percent.
- 🌿 A minimum of **44 percent** of post-consumer recycled material is included in the packaging of all Springs Window Fashions’ products. Each package is carefully engineered and tested to minimize the use of materials without sacrificing the integrity of the product.
- 🌿 **100 percent** of packaging materials are able to be recycled (according to a recent study conducted by the University of Wisconsin).



**“I ENSURE THAT IDEAS GENERATED BY SPRINGS WINDOW FASHIONS’ GREEN TEAM ARE IMPLEMENTED ON THE MANUFACTURING FLOOR AND THAT OUR ASSOCIATES ARE COMMITTED TO SAVING ENERGY.”**

**STEVE BRIDGE** | MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR | MIDDLETON



**Mixed Sources**  
Product group from well-managed  
forests, controlled sources and  
recycled wood or fiber  
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