

SIMPLY GREEN



Product examples:



BRUBAKER METALCRAFTS: QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP/ RESPONSIBLE RECYCLING

Brubaker Metalcrafts is a local company which makes 18th century reproductions of ship's lanterns, chandeliers, wall sconces, and candle molds. They sell some of their items locally and they are nationwide wholesalers as well. Their work can be seen throughout the county in private residences and in craft shops, and even on nationally televised programs such as the supernatural thriller *Sleepy Hollow* and the new series about pirates called *Crossbones*. They are known for their fine quality craftsmanship in metalworking and for their environmentally friendly business practices. I had the opportunity to interview Thad Suggs, the owner of Brubaker Metalcrafts on June 17, 2014 to find out more about how this business contributes to the community's recycling efforts and practices environmentally-friendly manufacturing.

Question 1: What is the history of your business and what do you produce?

Thad: The business has been around for 25 years and my wife (Cricket) and I took over ownership of it over two years ago. We make handmade 18th century reproduction metal crafts such as lanterns, sconces, candle molds, and chandeliers. The majority of our pieces are at least 95% handmade. The only electrical tools we use are a grinder, sander, drill press, and circle turner.

Question 2: What do you recycle and how do you recycle it?

Thad: We recycle newspaper a lot. We buy shredded newspaper from the Preble County MRDD service in town and we use the shredded newspaper as filler packing for shipping our parts. We also have the Register Herald send over any unused newspapers which we also use as packing for parts in shipment boxes. We sometimes have scrap metals when we produce our pieces and those we send to the Recycling Center in Richmond for recycling. Those are mostly brass and sheet metals scrap cuttings. We use a water soluble oil for finishing some of our metal pieces that is environmentally-friendly because of its water base. About 10 years ago, the former owner, Paul Brubaker installed an energy efficient furnace and AC unit and put in newer windows and insulation to conserve energy. He also replaced the T8 fluorescent bulbs for lighting with the more energy efficient T24 type. These changes help a great deal with energy conservancy.

Question 3: Why is it important to recycle?

Thad: I believe that it's important not to fill up the landfill if you don't have to and can recycle. I remember the size of the landfill when I was growing up and now I look at it and think about how large it



Brubaker Metalcrafts reuses newspapers to pack finished pieces for shipment.

has grown over the years. It's so much bigger than when I was a kid! People and business should recycle whenever they can.

The Preble County Solid Waste District reminds you that everyone can do their part to recycle and save landfill space while keeping our environment clean for future generations.

Business Facts about Brubaker Metalcrafts:

Hours of Operation: Monday through Thursday, 9 AM-4:00 PM

Location: 209 N. Franklin St. Eaton, Ohio 45320

Business Phone: 937-456-5834

Check out their Facebook page!



Preble County Solid Waste District

4499 US Rt. 127 South
Eaton, Ohio 45320

937-456-6880



WWW.preblecountyrecycles.org

"Have good taste! Create less waste!"



Summer Stuff! Extraordinary Uses for Ordinary Things...

- **Bleach sanitizes pool toys.** Dip a sponge into a mixture of 2 c. bleach and 1 gal. water, then wipe down pool noodles and beach balls. Scrub of grime with a brush, rinse with water.
- **Vinegar brightens patio furniture.** Fill a spray bottle with white vinegar and spritz over chairs and tables to remove mildew stains and prevent mold.
- **Coffee grounds banish ants.** Sprinkle some grounds near doorways. Coffee's high nitrogen content burns bugs so they won't cross it into your home.
- **Flip-flops become door-stops.** Cut a wedge of rubber from an old thong and use it to prop open a door and let the summer breeze in.
- **Dryer sheets repel bugs.** Keep sheets of this laundry staple in a cup outdoors—they mask the human scent that draws mosquitoes.

Summertime "Green Living" is Easy! Tips for a More Environmentally-Friendly Summer...

Living green and sustainably in the summer can be easier than in the winter because of the milder weather. Here are some handy tips to help you take care of the Earth when the warmer winds blow...and maybe you'll save some money too!

- Things dry faster in summer. Why not hang your laundry on a clothesline to save electricity. Hang clothes out in the morning on a sunny day and they'll be dry by the afternoon. If you don't have a clothesline, you can also use a drying rack indoors on sunny, dry days as well.
- Turn off your dishwasher's dry cycle. When your dishes are done, open the dishwasher and let your dishes air-dry directly in the rack.
- Take cool showers. They feel wonderful in summer and use less energy.
- On hot days, shut the windows in the morning when the air heats up and draw your shades or curtains. At night open up the windows.
- Make use of natural light from doors and windows instead of artificial lighting when you work or read. Or work/read outdoors whenever you can.
- Shop your local farmer's market for foods that are in season and don't have to be trucked in from somewhere else (gas savings), and are organically grown with no pesticides that can harm the Earth. Eat more salads that are healthy for you and the food doesn't have to be cooked on the stove (energy savings). Cooking less also keeps your home cooler in the hot summertime.
- Eat less meat to help curb global warming. All those Styrofoam trays the meat comes in fills up the landfill and makes Carbon Dioxide gasses upon decomposition. These gasses contribute majorly to global warming.
- Walk or ride your bike to your destination. Carpool to work whenever you can. It saves gas money and produces less air pollution.
- Grill instead of using your oven. Opt for cleaner burning propane or electric grills instead of charcoal ones which can contribute to poor air quality. If you do use charcoal, look for lump-style brands instead of briquettes which may contain coal dust or chemical additives. Some lump brands are even made from invasive tree species and or come from sustainably managed forests.
- Switch from using lighter fluid on your charcoal grill (which releases smog-forming VOCs) to using a chimney starter instead.
- Grill organic, home grown, hormone-free meats and mix it up with fish, veggies, or even fruits.
- Minimize health risks (from carcinogenic substances that can form when meats are grilled or broiled at high temperature) by choosing lean meats and trimming the fat before cooking.
- Set your picnic table with reusable dinnerware and silverware/cloth napkins. Or if that doesn't work for you, look for biodegradable or recycled-paper dinnerware, unbleached cups, and recycled-paper napkins.
- Clean up with green or natural cleaners like Orange Plus (made with orange oil) or Soy Clean. Vinegar and water solutions clean many surfaces nicely also. Use trash bags made from lesser amounts of non-recyclable plastics. Recycle bottles/cans/glass jars.