

Sta-Care celebrates 25 years of growth, service and quality

by Steve Ehle

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WOOD DIGEST

PRODUCTIVITY SOLUTIONS FOR MANUFACTURERS OF FURNITURE,
CABINETS, MILLWORK AND SPECIALTY WOOD PRODUCTS.

Earlier this year, Sta-Care, Inc. noted its 25th year business with an open house at its Portage, WI facility.

Over a two-day period, hundreds of Portage area residents, long-time customers and others toured the manufacturing plant and socialized with Sta-Care associates.

Sta-Care, Inc. is a Wisconsin corporation solely owned by Steve and Carolyn Aldridge, who started the company in half of a 2,400 square foot building south of Portage in 1978. The original products were custom countertops.

By 1980, Steve and Carolyn were forced to expand its facility – something that has happened seven times during

the company's 25 years of doing business. That same year, Steve's brother John joined the company and Aldridge Properties was formed. The Albert Street plant now sports 57,000 square feet of manufacturing and office space.

Due to increased sales in Illinois, an 18,000 square foot plant was opened in Pana, IL.

Sta-Care began postforming its own countertops slabs in 1990. Up until 1993, the company had been a wholesale manufacturer of residential countertops. However, with another expansion that year, Sta-Care entered the commercial countertop market.

In 1996, Aldridge Properties purchased a five acre parcel in the nearby

Pardeeville Industrial Park. By the fall of that year, a 3,200 square foot commercial/industrial building was erected and was used as a warehouse until 1998.

In late 1998, the company began manufacturing its own solid surface material. This was the birth of Visioneer® Solid Surface Countertops.

That same year, 20,000 square feet was added to the Pardeeville facility, with all of the solid surface production moving to that plant.

Also in the late 1990s, the decision was made to purchase laminate material on an OEM basis from laminate manufacturers. This task required inventorying nearly 800 colors and patterns.

Visioneer® Renewable Solid Surface

Sinks were introduced in July, 2001. The success of this product prompted the company to produce solid surface tub and shower surrounds.

Inventory requirements for the sink program created more demand for space in the Pardeeville plant, resulting in a 6,000 square foot addition in the fall of 2002.

With an eye on future expansion for increased production needs, Aldridge Properties entered into an agreement with the Village of Pardeeville in early 2003 to purchase an additional six acres of land adjoining the Pardeeville plant.

This purchase assures Sta-Care and its employees future growth and security.



Shown at Sta-Care's recent 25th anniversary open house are, left to right, Matt Aldridge, John Aldridge, Joy Aldridge, Carolyn Aldridge, Steve Aldridge and Travis Aldridge.

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