

Evergrate products are designed and manufactured at the J.R. Hoe production facility in Middlesboro, KY, where high quality iron castings and steel fabrications have been produced in the same location since 1909. The common phrase “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” has long been a core principle in our manufacturing process that extends into every branch of our operation today.

In addition to meeting the US Green Building Council’s criteria for various [LEED Credits](#), J.R. Hoe utilizes sustainable practices to reduce its environmental footprint in the following ways.

PRODUCTION

Recycled content used in Evergrate products consists of post-consumer scrap generated and procured from in-state sources less than 250 miles away, and post-industrial scrap (rejects, drops, cut-offs) generated in our own facility.

As a “green sand” foundry, we recycle and reuse 99% of our molding sand through a highly efficient, zero-emission reclaim system. The equipment used in the shakeout and reclaim process is designed with energy efficient natural frequency drive systems to reduce horsepower requirements, and variable speed drives (VSDs) which allow operating speed to be adjusted to load requirements.

OPERATIONS

All areas of the J.R. Hoe manufacturing facility are designed with natural lighting elements and/or energy efficient LED lighting. Natural air flow provides cooling in all work zones and zero emission electric forklifts are used throughout the facility.

Just as Evergrate products are featured in the design of sustainable landscapes, green infrastructure plays a key role in the facility where they are manufactured and shipped. Over 50% of stormwater runoff on the J.R. Hoe property is captured on site through bioretention and infiltration features, reducing the volume of runoff entering the stormwater system and contributing to a cleaner watershed.

SUPPLY CHAIN AND SHIPPING

Evergrate orders are processed in our Middlesboro, KY production facility then packaged and shipped directly to the customer, avoiding unnecessary freight to distributors and resale locations. By maintaining a lean supply chain and distribution channel for Evergrate products, shipping-related carbon emissions are minimized to the greatest extent possible. All discarded shipping pallets are recycled and purchased pallets are refurbished or made from recycled material. Recycled cardboard packaging is utilized wherever possible and all shipping supplies are procured from the nearest available sources.

PRODUCT DESIGN AND LIFE CYCLE

Evergrate products are thoughtfully designed not to exceed the durability and load requirements for which they are intended, thus eliminating excess materials and resources required in manufacture.

The durability, longevity and low maintenance requirements of Evergrate products contribute to a reduction in resources related to product maintenance and replacement.

Evergrate products are typically supplied free of coatings to completely eliminate the presence of VOC-emitting compounds. When coatings are required, powder coating is offered as an environmentally friendly alternative to conventional liquid paint.

Evergrate sidewalk drains and related products often replace polyvinyl chloride plastic (PVC) pipes and fittings. The production, lifecycle and disposal of PVC products is believed to be among the most environmentally harmful in the construction industry.

Ferrous metals such as iron and steel on the other hand are among the most recycled materials worldwide, contributing to a reduction in resource demand and the resulting positive environmental impacts.

SOCIAL

J.R. Hoe believes that a commitment to sustainability goes beyond protecting the natural environment. As a top priority, we are committed to the safety, success and well-being of our most valuable asset: our people. We pride ourselves in our award-winning safety record and the team-oriented culture we have established in supplying the Evergrate brand of products.

As an active participant in community development efforts, we have contributed significant resources, funding and volunteer hours to community programs ranging from creative place making projects to youth sports and public art. By embracing the social responsibility that goes along with a strong commitment to sustainability, J.R. Hoe + Evergrate believes that we can create a healthier, more sustainable world for current and future generations.
