



SPOTLIGHT ON... ADVANTAGE PRECAST

AT A GLANCE

Advantage Precast
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THE BASICS

Advantage Precast designs and manufactures concrete products, such as manholes, retaining walls, planters and pollution control structures.

HOW THEY GO ABOVE AND BEYOND

Recycling: Extra or waste concrete is used again in new concrete products.

Reuse: The Keizer company reuses forms that create holes in concrete products instead of making concrete products and then cutting holes in them. This eliminates excess waste.

Helps other businesses recycle: Owner Rick Day is committed to incorporating recycled material into his concrete products. He's experimenting with adding hair from local hair salons and he's used recycled glass in the past.



Advantage Precast began as a traditional concrete company—producing manholes and catch basins for city streets. But the Keizer-based company reinvented itself before the economic recession to expand its products to include wine cellars, pollution control structures, bridges, retaining walls, planters, tables and benches.

In doing so, Advantage Precast expanded its vision for the company as well—as one devoted to the environment.

Advantage Precast Inc. was the second company in Marion County to be certified EarthWISE. It was the first to receive its recertification.

Reusing and recycling is foremost in green practices for the concrete company.

Any extra concrete that collects on the molds or falls on the ground and concrete products that are damaged or returned are crushed and used again.

Concrete waste can be reused in products that don't need to conform to specific structural standards—items such as landscape blocks, bike racks or bumper curbs.

Not only does recycling this kind of waste keep concrete from filling up landfills, it also saves the company an



Advantage Precast manufactures a wide variety of concrete products.

estimated \$35,000 a year in hauling and waste costs.

Reusing products at Advantage Precast also has its cost savings.

Advantage Precast has saved hundreds of thousands of dollars since 1995 by reusing forms that create holes in concrete products. Other companies manufacture the concrete product and then cut out the needed holes. This creates extra concrete waste.

The cost of the hole former is recouped after about 20 uses.



Owner Rick Day experiments with various recycled materials in his concrete products. Terrazzo, the tiles at front, is a popular product that includes recycled glass.

"I have hole formers that I've used thousands of times," said owner Rick Day.

Day has also used Styrofoam and PVC pipe—recycled items from Marion County collection events—to create voids in concrete products. He's taken glass that local recycling companies can't recycle to make a

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beautiful product called terrazzo, which is a mixture of concrete and glass pieces that can be used for kitchen countertops. And Day is even experimenting with mixing hair from local beauty salons into concrete products—again with an eye toward keeping the waste product out of landfills.

The use of so many recycled materials gave Day another green idea: the creation of a green product line. Products with recycled concrete, steel and sand are given a special green Advantage Precast label. These concrete items can be used by developers to meet LEED green building standards.

Day's next project for his company involves conserving water. Day plans to build a reclaimed water tank to recycle storm drain water for washing the concrete slurry off forms, molds and trucks. The water recycling project could save Advantage Precast hundreds in water bills each year.

The company already made a move to reduce traffic, noise and diesel pollution from area roads by purchasing its own ready-mix concrete truck and a longer trailer to transport more concrete products



Advantage Precast marks its recycled concrete products with a special logo, which helps builders meet green building standards.

during each trip. In the past, ready-mix trucks traveled to Advantage Precast to fill up with concrete to create the concrete products. And when the city of Portland commissioned 25 13-foot-long planter boxes for Morrison Street, Day could deliver them on one truck instead of taking multiple trips.

In addition to his concern about the environment, Day worries about his employees as well. He knows that products that are safe for the natural world are often better for people too.

The lubricant used to separate the dried concrete from its metal form typically is diesel based. But Day



The Keizer company reuses its hole formers thousands of times and eliminates tons of excess concrete waste.

chose one with a vegetable base even though it is three times more expensive.

"You start worrying about the water, the air and conserving resources," Day said. "Everybody needs to do their part to protect what is around us. We had the opportunity and we took it."

EarthWISE Certification

Advantage Precast is well known as an innovative company that is dedicated to reducing waste through creative reuse and recycling of a variety of materials. They were also the second business to become EarthWISE certified in Marion County.



WANT TO DO THIS AT YOUR BUSINESS?

Marion County's EarthWISE program can help. Visit mcEarthwise.net, call 503.365.3188 or email Earthwise@co.marion.or.us