

2014 TEEA Winner Innovative Operations/Management Category: GlassCraft Door Company, Houston

John Plummer, President

That's our packaging line. This is what we call our pre-hang line...

Narrator

John Plummer started GlassCraft 35 years ago. Four years ago when the company decided to explore creating fiberglass doors, the process was driven by a question.

John Plummer

Can we make a fiberglass door that looks... that looks like wood?

Narrator

GlassCraft determined that the key was the finish.

John Plummer

We've got oak skin. We've got mahogany skin. We've got cherry skin.

Narrator

The automated assembly line can deliver 28 colors and four different textures.

Gene Denley, Engineering and Research Development

This was all new to everybody.

Narrator

It was created from scratch.

Gene Denley

There was no equipment out there at that time to do what we were doing so that's why we had to design our own equipment.

Narrator

GlassCraft obtained two patents for its system which uses a water-based sealant. This dramatically reduced both the use of hazardous chemical compounds and emissions from the plant.

Gene Denley

You gotta go green and you have to get on board or you're not going to sell doors, you're not going to sell anything.

Narrator

The doors actually cost slightly less than initial estimates. Sales have risen and employees have a cleaner workplace.

John Plummer

Years ago we had a solvent based finish, the doors had to be open, people were wearing respirators, we're so much cleaner now and it's just so much more friendly of a place to work.

Matthew O'Shea, Director of Operations

It's been a great project and uh, I think it's uh, I think it's something we can all be proud of.