



Being Green — Continuing the Tradition



Not far from our studio, the Willamette River runs through the heart of Eugene before it meanders through the lush Willamette Valley, through Portland, and into the Columbia River. 70 percent of Oregon's population lives in reach of the river, and its protection has brought divergent interests together. For our part, the studio meets and exceeds all requirements for water conservation and water quality protection. One of our large sinks, most commonly used in the kitchen, is named in honor of the Willamette.

In all likelihood, the terms “sustainable” and “green” have received more media attention in the past six months than ever before. If we weren't already well aware of the meaning of the terms, we are now. While this new level of cultural awareness is working against some segments of the economy (think SUVs), for others—like ours—the quest for sustainability is a bright silver lining in these times.

The Oregon Copper Bowl Company's approach to business—from drawing board to delivery—resonates particularly well in this climate. The very premise of hand-crafting sinks of the finest quality and creating them from the finest quality materials long ago put us on a course for a “green” business. From careful sourcing of our materials and studio practices, to conscientious choices for packaging, and using a green shipping company, we've always tried to keep our impact minimal.

While the middle part of this decade had consumers seeking a story to accompany their material goods, now they've gotten specific. Hand-crafted, heirloom quality, eco-friendly materials are held in high regard. Add the twist of made in America, and the story is complete.

continued on back

From the Founder



I regularly read references to the Pacific Northwest's role in the eco, or “green” movement. As an Oregonian, I'm proud to see how much innovation emerges from our state. Yet I have a hard time attributing the credit of the movement to our region. In fact, if we've learned anything in the past months, it's that when a critical mass of Americans decides to change their habits (whether driving or buying habits), we all see the effect. It's taken a decade or so for the sustainable ideas and products of the Northwest to be identified and adopted by the rest of the country, but suddenly, it seems it's happening. A number of dealers and reps have told me that we

appear to have hit the tipping point: buyers are walking the “eco” talk and buying with consideration to the source and the manufacturer. They are even—finally—willing to pay more for quality goods that have a smaller footprint. This is a very good time to share the story of Oregon Copper Bowl and its green-mindedness.

To those ends, this issue of Studio Quarterly is dedicated to the fully emerged “green” movement, as it pertains to our business. I hope you're able to use our story in the showroom, as you talk with customers who are concerned about the environmental impact of their purchases.



OREGON COPPER BOWL COMPANY

The Original - Handcrafted in America



Proving Quality—Ensuring Purity

Previously, we've described our emphasis on using quality materials in order to create the finest quality sinks and basins. What we haven't covered is how we know just how pure our materials are, or why it matters—or should matter—to buyers.

“We certify that the foregoing results are correct and that this material has been processed, inspected, and tested in compliance with the requirements of your purchase order, and with the specification requirements.... This material has not come in contact with free mercury during the manufacturing process.”

Laboratory Manager

When we purchase our metals, we are provided with an “attestation” of the metal's content. This document is particularly important for copper and brass because of the metal's recycled content. (What makes copper and brass so good environmentally can deliver a surprise dose of unwanted materials.)

This attestation certifies that the material has been processed, inspected and tested to ensure we are getting what we ordered. It also reports the metal content, hardness and grain. The metal is identified by heat number and lot, and whether it was melted and manufactured in the United States. (We purchase from US, European and Japanese mills only, as these nations have more strict regulations and reporting requirements that ensure the highest quality materials.)

What's Green About Copper

When we talk about the “green” in copper, we're not referring to the green patina some people think of when they hear “copper.” In fact, copper is one of the most “green” and earth-friendly metals available.



1787 Fugio Cent
First coin authorized by United States Congress.

Here's why:

1. Because of its purity, copper (and brass, which is 70% copper) is one of the easiest metals to recycle.
2. Because it is so easy to recycle, mills look to recycled sources before they mine new ore.
3. Heavy gauge, high quality copper can be refinished many times over.



1795 Large Cent

Copper endures the ages, making it a truly sustainable material. The copper coins shown above are the first coins minted at the Newly Authorized United State Mint.



Studio Quarterly is a publication for the dealers and specifiers of Oregon Copper Bowl Company creations. Our mission is to provide relevant news and information you can use. We welcome your comments at oregoncopperbowl@oregoncopperbowl.com. To be added or removed from our mailing list, please call 541-485-9845.



Q: My nickel sink sometimes gets black marks on it. How do I safely remove these?

A: The black marks you see are tarnish, in effect. Fortunately, it's easy to remove the marks with a cream metal polish. Our favorite is Flitz but any polish that's approved for nickel will do. Be sure to use a very soft cloth when you apply the polish. Never use a scouring pad on your nickel sink.



The Other Component of Sustainability—Corporate Giving



Oregon Copper Bowl Company is, in the scheme of things, a small company. But that doesn't stop us from trying to accomplish big things. Our community is known for its groundbreaking work in the social services field: local agencies have inspired national movements like Birth to Three, relief nurseries and best practices for food banks. There's no shortage of ways to contribute to a better tomorrow, and we take full advantage of that.

One of our favorite charities is FOOD for Lane County. This agency provides emergency hunger relief to more than 80,000 people in Lane County each year. Doing this requires incredible support from the community at large. Oregon Copper Bowl is a proud participant in the agency's annual Empty Bowls fundraiser, which auctions artisan's bowls and directs all proceeds to FOOD for Lane County.

This year we created a set of three signed, hammered antique copper patina nesting bowls. In the past, we've created and donated copper fountains, bowls and presentation trays to Empty Bowls. The auction of these items has delivered thousands of dollars to the agency, filling the empty bowls of many in our community.

News of Note

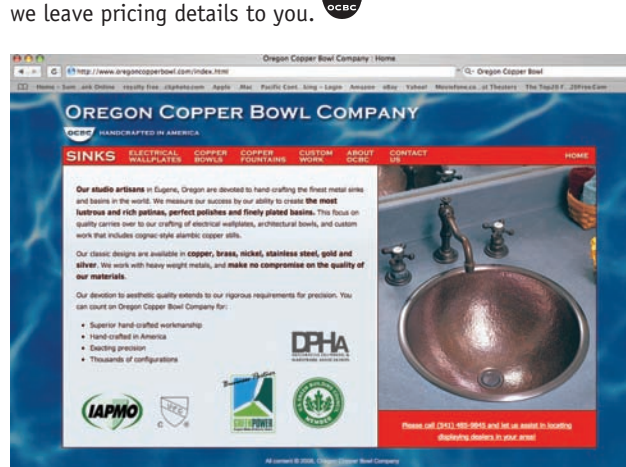
DPHA Membership



The Oregon Copper Bowl Company has joined the Decorative Plumbing and Hardware Association (DPHA) community and we serve as a sponsor for the organization and its efforts. You can learn more at dpha.net.

New Website Puts Details Within Easy Reach

We've rolled out an all new website that's intended to make your work easier. Check out oregoncopperbowl.com (that's the same address as before) and get acquainted. You'll find all sorts of information about the studio, plenty of photos, and specifications and product details, including our tear sheets. Of course, your customers will find the site helpful as well, though we leave pricing details to you.



US Green Building Council Member



We are also a member of the US Green Building Council Members. This membership helps us stay ahead of the curve when it comes to green building standards and developments. We hope our involvement and experience benefits our fellow members in the years to come, and that we can help raise awareness about the benefits of using renewable, recyclable, refinishable and reusable materials like copper and brass for fixtures and sinks.

The Power of Wind



Nearly a decade ago, the studio was among the first in the business community to support its local public utility's efforts to explore more renewable power resources.

Innovative Water & Electric was ahead of the curve with regard to wind power and was an innovator in presenting customers with the option of paying a little more to support its wind generation plant in Wyoming. Our studio has been on board with that effort since the late 90s—long before it became mainstream to do such a thing. Today, the Oregon Copper Bowl studio is a 100% windpower user.



Being Green, continued

It's a very good time to promote the sinks and basins made by Oregon Copper Bowl Company, according to founder Lance Hull. “Besides our careful choice of materials and processes, you can consider our sinks an classic and enduring designs to underscore the likelihood of our sinks being used indefinitely.”

From ongoing review of processes, to membership in the US Green Building Council, the studio's intent is to continuously reduce its impacts. “As we work on this, each increment of improvement gets more challenging,” says Hull. “Our impact is so low to begin with, and we've done so much to keep it low, it's a challenge to see huge effects.”



P.O. Box 5859
Eugene, OR 97405

541 • 485 • 9845
www.OregonCopperBowl.com



OREGON COPPER BOWL COMPANY

The Original - Handcrafted in America