



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AT MAPLE PRESS

Maple Press has a long history of environmental stewardship. We pride ourselves on making quality books through the implementation of safe and responsible processes that benefit our employees, provide for the effective operation of our business, and protect the environment.

In the prepress area, Maple Press operates a closed-loop plate process that limits the use of raw materials and waste quantity. The transition to digital technology has resulted in dramatic reductions in water use, paper, chemicals and film. Also, the move to soft proofing has eliminated both hard copy proofs and the packaging and energy required to transport them.

Through the years, Maple Press has strived to operate our pressrooms utilizing environmentally responsible processes and materials. We long ago incorporated alcohol-free fountain solutions and non-hazardous solvents in our printing process. Recently, Maple Press implemented the *THINKTech*[™] printing system which is extremely eco-friendly. This revolutionary process utilizes unique inks and blanket wash that are nearly solvent-free. Our inks have less than 2% VOC emissions and our blanket wash emits less than one-half of one percent VOCs. These rates are dramatically below industry levels experienced with other traditional printing methods. We are very pleased to be able to offer this green printing system to our customers.

Maple Press has also been an innovator with regard to recycled paper options, as we were the first U.S. book printer to use chlorine-free, FSC-certified paper. Today we continue to offer recycle paper options as part of our Paper Stocking Program. Many of our selections are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) at the point they arrive at our manufacturing facility.

Our material programs provide our customers with several eco-friendly options for cloth, and our cover boards and cartons contain significant recycled content. We generate no hazardous waste and adhesives are selected with both effectiveness and VOC percentages in mind. All products are identified and monitored in our MSDS system to ensure worker awareness and proper handling.

Over 95% of materials received ship out as finished books and the vast majority of what remains is recycled. Maple Press operates a robust scrap collection and plant-wide recycling program. Materials recycled include cardboard, paper and many other commodities. We also continue to invest heavily in the development of online applications to further reduce the use of paper and supplies for internal and external communications. The vast array of information available via our website at www.maplepress.com is just one example of these efforts.

Energy-efficient HID lighting and specialized motors are just two of continuous improvements that have reduced our electricity consumption. We have also implemented ideas generated by employees and outside consultants to help us further reduce energy usage. The fuel oil in our underground tanks is monitored by state-of-the-art environmental controls to ensure the safety of the water supply.

As signatories to the Green Press Initiative's Industry Treatise and a founding member of the Book Industry Study Group, Maple Press continues to be a book industry leader in the support of environmental initiatives. We have found that investing in environmentally responsible processes supports our ability to operate cost effectively and helps to ensure Maple Press's long-term competitiveness in the marketplace.