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## Elimination Of Painting Process Provides Cleaner Air

### The Member

In 1896, in a tiny town along the banks of the Tennessee River, Joseph Lodge found a beautiful valley in which to raise a family and build a foundry. Over the past 100 years, we have made many changes in equipment and procedures. However, throughout four generations of family management, our commitment to people, quality, and product innovation has never changed. The great grandsons of Joseph himself now direct a state of the art, environmentally friendly foundry. Many of our current employees boast of being third and fourth generation foundry craftsmen. Because of the family tradition of reinvestment, Lodge is not only the sole domestic cast iron cookware foundry; it is America's oldest family-owned cookware manufacturer. Come and visit our small, scenic city - perhaps during the Annual National Cornbread Festival on the last weekend of April. See why Lodge is "Over 100 Years and Still Cooking!"

### The Story

When developing their 2002 long-term goals and objectives for the Lodge Manufacturing Co., South Pittsburg, TN operation, the senior management team, in conjunction with the environmental management team, elected to develop and follow a course, which has proven to be simultaneously both more customer friendly and environmentally friendly. The Lodge research and development team was challenged to identify an alternative to the water based paint that had traditionally been utilized on a variety of products. The challenge was to identify a new, better, and more environmentally friendly alternative method of coating cast metal products and cookware that would allow total removal of the paint process. Likewise, sales and

marketing was challenged to develop a marketing & business plan for the core products and to arrange for the orderly phase out of those items that did not meet the requirements of the Lodge Manufacturing Co. long-term goals and objectives. The basic goal was to totally phase out the paint line during 2003, coat their product with a fully environmentally friendly substance, and phase out with the paint line those items that by specification required painting.

### The Success

Through close coordination between research & development and sales and marketing, Lodge Manufacturing Company has developed and incorporated a proprietary (secret recipe) process at their operation. The water-based paint line has been decommissioned and all painting materials removed from the operation. The new process resulted in an environmentally friendly, food grade, preseasoned cookware for the customer. Now a customer can purchase a new cookware item and begin using it immediately without going through the home seasoning process traditionally required with cast iron cookware. All parts that previously were painted are now processed through the cookware finishing lines, or have been eliminated from the Lodge Manufacturing Co. product mix.

### The Pollution Prevented

Through elimination of the painting process by incorporating alternate products and processes, Lodge Manufacturing has eliminated 20.8 permitted tons of VOCs at their facility.

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