



Department of  
**Environment &  
Conservation**



## SumiRiko Tennessee, Inc.

### Different Name, Same Commitment

SumiRiko Tennessee, Inc. formerly known as DTR of Tennessee operates two facilities, one in Tazewell, Claiborne County and one in Midway, Washington County.

In an effort to take advantage of global branding, the parent company decided to carry a common name for all of its 105 facilities in 23 countries. SumiRiko has maintained a long and successful history in its 88 years of existence. Much of that success has been due to the company motto of "Our Associates are Our Most Valuable Resource."

SumiRiko of Tennessee, Inc. manufactures anti-vibration, high-pressure hoses, and sound-proofing products for the automotive industry. The two Tennessee facilities manufacture over 1,200 complimentary parts for 20 different types of vehicles. Many of the parts are a unique combination of rubber and metal.

This specific type of manufacturing can lead to very particular waste streams. "The two facilities are nearly an hour apart and generate different materials," said Jeff Bolduc, Environmental Engineer at the Midway plant.

"That can be a logistical problem when you are not located in a central part of the state."

The two facilities share enough similar types of rubber waste that they are able to use the same recycling vendor for both facilities. "Rubber, both cured and uncured, is our biggest challenge to recycle," said Melanie Yeary, Environmental Engineer at the Tazewell plant.



SumiRiko Tennessee, Inc.

- Established 1996
- Employs 1500+
- Member since 2014
- Formerly DTR of Tennessee





Through good source separation, and with the assistance of their recycling vendors, the two facilities can collect rubber waste to get the best value and beneficial reuse out of the material.

Although both locations recycle many other common waste streams, such as cardboard, steel, paper, and plastic, the rubber compounds are by far the most in weight. Even with these challenges, Tazewell is at 92% landfill diversion and Midway is near 90%.

The rate of landfill diversion is only one success story for SumiRiko. Like many companies, compressed air to operate equipment is a must, even though leaks and the need to maintain a constant and consistent pressure are costly. “Our lighting upgrades and steam valve change-outs were good projects, saved us money, and prevented 2,000 tons of CO2 emissions annually,” said Bolduc, “but new compressed air system was the big winner.”

The 13 air compressors ran continuously to maintain air pressure to all areas throughout the plants. “We needed them to run constantly so there wouldn’t be an unexpected drop in pressure,” said Melanie Yeary. “The associate team we put together implemented a monitoring system to keep pressure where it was needed, track energy usage to start and stop the compressors, and eliminate areas of compressed air waste.”

The new air compressor system saved over \$140,000.00 per year with a payback of only 16 months.

SumiRiko of Tennessee, Inc. is committed to sustainability by becoming as energy efficient and zero-waste as possible. They became members of the Tennessee Green Star Partnership in 2014 and attended the Sustainable Industry Workshop in Knoxville last summer. “We wanted to learn from other industries in the partnership as well as share our ideas,” said Yeary.

The [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state which are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining SumiRiko of Tennessee, Inc. and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.

