



The Bertch corporate commitment to the environment extends beyond their facility. Since 1977 all associates understand responsible stewardship. Bertch uses specific methods, for minimizing the quantity of new materials purchased and amount of waste generated:

- May 2007, achieved environmental certification through the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturer's Association (KCMA) Environmental Stewardship Program.
- Bertch creates an Environmental Compliance position in 1988.
- Optimizer technology is used to maximize lumber utilization. A computer program that calculates the most efficient way to cut lumber to get the greatest yield.
- In 1986, Bertch began a solvent recycling program. Currently, the recycled solvent is used for cleaning, then recycled again.
- Bertch utilizes UV finishing materials. These materials emit no air pollution and generate little solid hazardous waste due to minimal amounts of volatile organic compounds within the materials.
- Participated in the Governor's Award program for waste reduction projects.
- Served on the State's Earth Year Steering Committee.
- Participated in waste-reduction audits by University of Northern Iowa and the DNR.
- Seedlings have been distributed to Bertch associates, as well as local students. The founders of Bertch have actively planted trees for over 30 years to assure the renewable resource is continuously replenished.
- Earth Day presentations for Partners In Education students, are presented by Bertch associates.
- Wood-fired boiler and cogeneration units provides both heat and electricity for plants utilizing wood waste. The energy produced from wood waste is used for heating buildings and drying ovens in the finishing rooms.

Throughout the Bertch complex, extensive recycling programs are in place.