

Recycled Products

Company:
ClosetMaid
(Ocala, Florida)
www.closetmaid.com

Product:
Wire shelving

Recycled content:
75-percent recycled steel

Target market:
General consumer

ClosetMaid offers a line of versatile shelves made for closets, garages, living rooms and elsewhere to meet the needs of clothes horses, pack rats and people who just need a way to organize their stuff. The company's wire shelving products are panels made up of divided metal bars that can be custom-assembled to accommodate any user's storage needs. Recently, ClosetMaid announced that the shelves have been certified as having 75-percent recycled content.

Late last year, the company received certification from Scientific Certification Systems, a third-party certifier for environmental labels and claims, that the shelving is made from 75-percent recycled content, including 65-percent post-consumer and 10-percent post-industrial recycled steel.

According to ClosetMaid, recycled steel has long been used in the shelving and the company just recently decided to have the products certified in response to the increased interest from consumers for ecologically-oriented options. This step was also taken in response to builders who want to use more SCS-certified products that count toward meeting LEED criteria used by the U.S. Green Building Council.



Company:
Eco-Products
(Boulder, Colorado)
www.ecoproducts.com

Product:
EcoLid 25

Recycled content:
25-percent recycled polystyrene

Target market:
General consumer

Eco-Products, a producer of food service products from recycled or renewable sources, makes the EcoLid 25, a hot cup lid containing 25-percent post-consumer polystyrene for use in coffee shops, restaurants and office break rooms. According to Eco-Products, while much of the industry has been focused on recycling paper cups, its new lid is an important part of making beverage containers more sustainable.

The EcoLid 25 is made in the U.S. and was developed in collaboration with NextLife, a plastic recycling company, and LidWorks, a thermoformer of plastic lids. The lid is meant to complement the company's Evolution World line of 24-percent post-consumer fiber hot cups and its 90-percent post-consumer fiber EcoGrip hot cup sleeve.

The lid is available in white, black and printed options for 8, 10 and 24 ounce cups.



Company:
Earth Monkeys
(Medford, Oregon)
www.earthmonkeys.com

Product:
Porta-pad

Recycled content:
100-percent recycled PET

Target market:
Environmentally-minded parents

In spring 2010, Lindsay McPhail and Gena Hansen, two moms from Medford, Oregon, were coming home from a farmers' market where their kids had become sticky messes. While loading their little ones into the car, Hansen called out, "We need a bib that's small enough to fit onto a keychain so it's always handy!"

Nine months later, the two had designed and manufactured their own "bib-in-a-bag" along with other baby accessories, all made from 100-percent recycled PET. The bib easily folds up into an attached pouch, as does their "porta-pad," which was designed for changing diapers while on the go. Also offered is the "paci-pack," which can be used to store pacifiers. Each item is designed to be lightweight, and is attached to an aluminum carabineer, making it easy to hook onto a diaper bag, purse or keychain.

In order to sell their wares, the two moms launched Earth Monkeys earlier this year. The new company aims to offer other parents an affordable line of useful and eco-friendly baby accessories that serve as a substitute for other more disposable "on-the-go" products.

"Sometimes it's hard to be environmentally conscious," explains Hansen in a prepared statement. "It can be expensive to buy all eco-friendly products for your family, but we think every little bit counts! Our mission is to make it possible for any parent to make eco-friendly decisions for their household without breaking the bank or piling more work on an already hectic schedule."

