

NATURAL HARDWOOD FURNITURE FROM VERMONT



## COMPANY HISTORY

copeland

FURNITURE

[www.copelandfurniture.com](http://www.copelandfurniture.com)





Copeland Furniture began in 1976 after Tim Copeland left his job in wholesale lumber sales and began to build products, on contract, for Gardenway Research, a mail order catalog. Originally named T. Copeland & Sons, the company began as a one man operation located in a small garage on family property in South Corinth, Vermont.



**South Corinth, Vermont Farm**



**T. Copeland & Sons Cider Press**

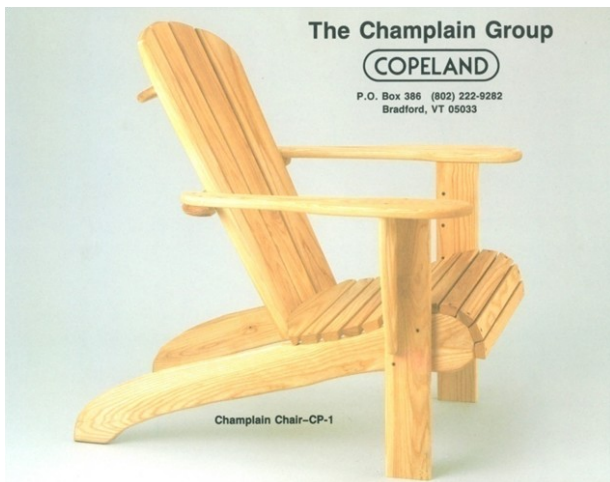
In 1977 Tim moved the company off his father's farm and into a former trucking garage in East Corinth, Vermont. The company would move twice more before settling in our current location in Bradford, Vermont.

Our initial product was a wooden framed cider press designed for personal and small orchard use. The T. Copeland & Sons Cider Press was an instant success. At its peak we produced over three thousand units in a single year. In 1978 we added the Butcher Block Woodworkers Tool Bench to our line. As sales increased throughout the late 1970's we hired additional employees and moved into increasingly larger manufacturing spaces.

**East Corinth, Vermont Garage**



In the late 1970's butcher block furniture was becoming very popular in American homes. Eager to capitalize on this growing market, we began to offer butcher block dining room and kitchen utility furniture in the early 80's. Eventually, furniture sales outpaced those of our original products and our company was renamed Copeland Furniture. Our first major Copeland Furniture accounts were Workbench in New York City and Bamburgers, which was later folded into Macy's.



Another of our best selling early designs was an outdoor group adapted from the popular Adirondack chair. Our "Champlain Chair" featured rounded contours and a more refined seat and back for extra comfort. A victim of its own success, the Champlain group was eventually dropped due to competition from knockoffs. While no longer produced by Copeland Furniture, this exact variant of the popular Adirondack chair remains successful today and is being manufactured by a number of foreign companies.



**1984 Factory Fire**

In 1984 disaster struck the business. Faulty wiring in our old wooden framed factory led to a catastrophic fire. Within a few hours the entire building had burned to the ground. We decided immediately to rebuild. After a brief relocation, we built a new facility on top of the foundation of the old factory. Ironically, while the fire was a complete loss, it afforded us the opportunity to revamp our operation. From that time, modern equipment and practices would replace antiquated methods and "state-of-the-art" manufacturing would become our mantra. In 1999 we completed an addition to our Bradford, Vermont facility bringing our manufacturing space up to 75,000 square feet.





Today Copeland Furniture continues to manufacture 100% in the United States. The challenges of domestic manufacturing require that we embrace state-of-the-art manufacturing whenever possible. This has helped us remain competitive and results in a superior product.



**Current Factory in Bradford, Vermont**



- A computer optimized rough mill which reads defects in lumber and calculates the most efficient way to cut the board, reducing waste.
- CNC (computer numeric controlled) machining centers dramatically cut manufacturing times. They also offer a level of precision not found on traditional methods.
- CAD/CAM - Computer Aided Design is integrated with CNC machines, eliminating steps in the manufacturing process and allowing designers to better visualize a final product.
- Radio Frequency cured glues which cure faster and with stronger glue joints
- Infra-Red cured pre-catalyzed lacquer which exceeds Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturing Association standards. Our finishes will hold up to the grease, heat, and spills typically found in a kitchen setting.
- Pull-manufacturing. All pieces are made-to-order. Parts for all products are pre-manufactured and maintained in our "parts supermarket." New orders are sent to assembly and are promptly built resulting in greatly reduced throughput times.



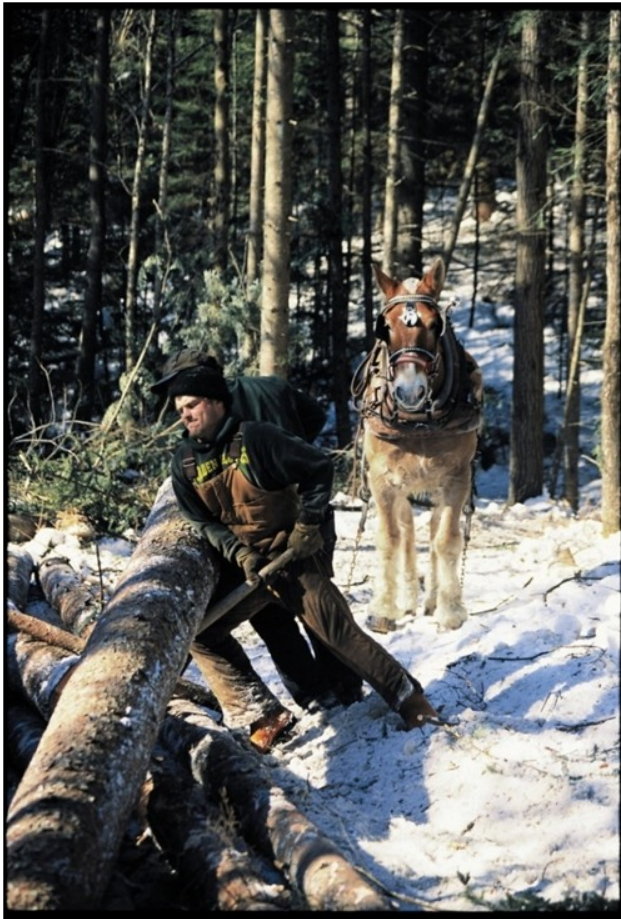


While it presents many challenges, there are still certain competitive advantage in domestic manufacturing. The people who build Copeland Furniture are our friends and neighbors. They can relate to the products they build. They take great pride in their jobs and it shows in their workmanship. Our employees work under an incentive program that rewards quality. All employees are empowered to refuse anything that comes to them that is not of acceptable quality. We stand behind our products. If we ship something that isn't quite right or if it's damaged in transit, we'll make sure that your customer gets a perfect product. If it can't be fixed we'll make a new one to replace it. Proximity to our customers and Made-To-Order production allows us to offer shortened lead times and choices in knobs, pulls, and finishes.

### **Copeland Furniture Assembly and Finishing Crews**







All Copeland Furniture pieces are made of Hardwoods from the American Northern Forest - woods such as Cherry, Maple, White Oak, and Black Walnut. American customers understand and appreciate these woods, which enhances perceived value of the furniture. Cherry offers superior woodworking characteristics. A strong hardwood with a subtle grain pattern add a uniform texture, its color darkens with exposure to sunlight. Sugar Maple is a heavy wood characterized by straight grain or clusters of curls (burls). It is highly resistant to abrasion and indentation and it's natural color ranges from cream to light brown. White Oak is an extremely dense wood with strong grain definition. It is somewhat lighter in color than Red Oak and quarter sawing produces a distinctive "ray fleck". American Black Walnut is a dense wood with a uniform to highly figured grain. The color ranges from light gray-brown to dark purplish-brown. Its rich patina deepens with age.

**A piece of Quartersawn White Oak on a finished Cherry table.**







We are surrounded by beauty. The architectural gems that line the streets in Vermont's well preserved villages inform our aesthetic and sense of proportion. The natural landscape surrounds us with beauty in the form of farmland and mountains. It is also the source of a renewable resource – solid hardwood - from which we build beautiful furniture for your home.



Preservation and stewardship are values that run deep in Vermont. They run deep at Copeland Furniture too. Our commitment to sustainability is reflected in the furniture we design and manufacture. We know that our environment is, in many ways, very fragile. We are the beneficiaries of the strong stewardship ethic practiced and passed down by those who went before us. We hope that the next generation appreciates our stewardship and is inspired to continue the tradition.



# Green Furniture

## Copeland Furniture is Green Furniture

Preservation and stewardship are values that run deep in Vermont. We take pride in the quality of the environment and the natural beauty that surrounds us. Here are some of the ways that our environmental values are reflected in each piece of furniture that we make:

## We use sustainably harvested hardwoods from the American Northern Forest

The lumber we use comes from within 500 miles of our factory. Living and working in and near the regions that supply our raw materials means that far less fossil fuel is consumed and less carbon dioxide emitted through transportation. Furthermore, a recent independent research study,\* commissioned by the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) and conducted by a team of international experts confirms that:

- U.S. hardwoods derive from legal and well managed forests. Hardwood procured from anywhere in the hardwood states could be considered Low Risk in all five Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) controlled wood risk categories.
- There exists, a low risk that U.S. hardwoods are produced from controversial sources as defined in the Chain of Custody standard of the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).
- The U.S. hardwood-producing region can be considered low risk for illegal and non-sustainable hardwood sourcing as a result of public and private regulatory and non-regulatory programs.

*\*The full report can be found at [www.ahec-europe.org](http://www.ahec-europe.org)*



## We were awarded Silver Exemplary Membership Status by Sustainable Furnishings Council

Copeland Furniture was awarded Silver Exemplary Membership Status by Sustainable Furnishings Council (SFC), joining only a handful of companies to have been awarded this prestigious distinction for proven performance in meeting a range of specific sustainability measures.



## Recipient of the Sage Award for environmental excellence

Sponsored by the American Home Furnishings Alliance (AHFA), the award program was launched to recognize environmental accomplishments within the home furnishings industry. For more information go to [www.sageaward.org](http://www.sageaward.org)

## Standard finish is GREENGUARD Certified.

We use a post-catalyzed conversion varnish that is GREENGUARD Certified for low chemical emissions as the default finish option on all of our products. GREENGUARD certification is a testing program of UL (Underwriters Laboratory) focusing on the issue of indoor air quality. Further information about GREENGUARD certification, can be found at: <http://www.greenguard.org>

## Water based finishes are optional on most our furniture.

A water born, formaldehyde free finish may be specified for most Copeland Furniture pieces. These finishes are every bit as durable as our standard post-catalyzed conversion varnish with the added benefit of drastically reduced VOC emissions at the factory and off-gassing at the home. However catalyzed finishes tend to lay smoother and have a warmer appearance.

## We create durable furniture with timeless designs that will last generations.

Heirloom-quality furniture has less environmental impact than a piece that will fail or has a "fashion life." We use time-tested joinery and construction methods, combined with durable finishes and quality hardware.

## We're not done.

While the environmental impact of our factory and the environmental cost of the furniture we build for you is among the lowest, we're not standing still. We've continued to work to reduce VOC (volatile organic compounds) emissions. We've reduced packaging material purchases with the installation of a box making machine that allows us to make only what we need. We recycle all packaging waste and have reduced our reliance on landfill disposal. We now heat our building completely with wood waste from our manufacturing operation further reducing our consumption of imported oil.



For more information and greater detail, please visit [www.copelandfurniture.com](http://www.copelandfurniture.com)