

American Pride: Made, Manufactured & Maintained in Michigan Think Local, Think Independent Window Repair

There's no question that the economy, particularly in Michigan, is in turmoil. The after-effects of companies "going global" — opting to purchase cheaper, foreign-made supplies, outsourcing jobs and closing companies — have left a gaping hole in the economic strata, not to mention the availability of locally made products.

The good news is there are still local businesses, such as Independent Window Repair, Inc., that are dedicated to maintaining and supporting the high standards of quality that mark the meaning behind "American-made." "I do watch where we buy our supplies from. Even though I could buy my supplies from Mexico, Canada, China or other countries for less, I choose to buy American suppliers — I'm just a patriotic person," said Matthew Cipriano, the sole proprietor of Chesterfield-based Independent Window Repair (IWR).

Approximately 99.5 percent of all materials utilized in each step of IWR's unique window repair process are purchased from American companies: The wood is bought from companies based in Michigan, Oregon and Connecticut; the PVC parts come from Virginia; hardware is purchased from a company in Minnesota; Ohio-based Sherwin-Williams is the paint of choice at IWR; and the most essential part of window repair, the glass, is bought right here in Southeast Michigan. "Our glass supplier is located right here in Shelby Township, Michigan. In fact, nearly 75 percent of all supplies brought into the company come from companies in the state of Michigan — I do watch where we buy our supplies from," said Cipriano, who seeks out American, and more specifically Michigan, products for both his professional and personal purchases in an effort to support American companies and workers, and in turn, help spur the economy and restore "Michigan pride."

On top of that, all 16 of IWR's fleet vehicles, as well as Cipriano's personal car, are American-made, and a Michigan-based company provides health insurance coverage for his employees — each of whom undergoes a comprehensive background check, drug testing and extensive training.

"All of my employees are highly trained U.S. citizens. A lot of them are married with children and a mortgage right here in Southeast Michigan," said Cipriano, who said both he and his employees support the local businesses in their neighborhoods.

Cipriano takes the American-made concept a step further: He not only makes a concerted effort to purchase his company's supplies from American- and Michigan-based sources, but he also is dedicated to maintaining the high level of quality, innovation and service Michiganders expect, at a price they can afford.

IWR's manufacturing takes place right here in Southeast Michigan — 100 percent of all work is either done at the Chesterfield location or on-site at the customer's home or business. Utilizing IWR's unique window repair system, IWR's highly skilled carpenters customize all repairs to blend in with the home's existing design, replacing only the rotted wood and windows that need fixed — an added bonus for homeowners who are struggling with repair costs due to the poor economy.

Independent Window Repair is a BBB accredited company that's regularly featured on Detroit's "The Handyman Show with Glenn Haege." For more information about Independent Window Repair, located at 56308 N. Bay Dr. in Chesterfield, call toll free (866) IWR-1919 or visit www.iwrinc.com.