

# PROGRESSIVE LAB SOLUTIONS

SPRING 2009

(803) 774-6400

ISSUE ONE



*Far L: PS VM Maple stained to match Cherry doors. L: PS VM Maple and ADA hood: Above: Inset Steel w/ gray epoxy resin work surface*

## Industry News and Happenings

### The economy has slowed but we are staying busy at Progressive Labs.

It seems over the last 9 months or so we have seen many projects put on hold and some even cancelled. In speaking with many of our customers it sounds like the worst is over and many projects are preparing for "re-release". We have been able to stay busy through this tough time and would like to thank our new and repeat customers for staying with their projects.

**Durcon, Inc. has introduced** a new environmentally friendly epoxy resin work surface. Greenstone is similar in appearance to Durcon's standard epoxy resin product but contains at least 10% post consumer recycled content and low

VOC levels. This product appears to offer the same chemical resistance that has made epoxy resin the standard in our industry. We are currently conducting our own tests on this material and look forward to providing feedback soon.

**Advanced Lab Concepts acquires Collegedale in 2008.** The new company, ALC-Collegedale is now one of the largest laboratory casework and fume hood manufacturers in the world. The Tennessee facility, located just outside of Chattanooga, will support our area with a closer manufacturing location on certain types of projects. Benefits include additional manufacturing capacity (shorter lead times) as well as introducing many of the Collegedale products to our offering. We congratulate ALC-Collegedale on this exciting news.

**EMERGENCY - We keep a limited supply of** items in our warehouse for emergency or quick ship type needs. This includes wood and steel

What is your basis of design? Wood, Steel, Stainless, Phenolic Resin, Polypropylene or Plastic Laminate? We can help!

casework as well as work surfaces, sinks, pegboards and service fixtures. Next time you are in need of an item **FAST**, call our office. If we do not stock the item you need we can help you find it asap.

Contact us at (803) 774-6400 or [info@prolabsolutions.net](mailto:info@prolabsolutions.net)



**SPRING CLEANING:** No more out dated specifications! Let us review your project specs and make recommendations.



# A/E Corner

## Service fixture matters

Many times we forget to consider *how* certain sink fixtures (faucets) will be used. This often results in requesting items that do not fit the application. Old specifications will require a “rigid” gooseneck where a swing makes more sense. Or a shallow sink is outfitted with a serrated tip that is not needed. This can create a WET workspace.

## Lots of tops

Our industry has experienced an increase in the cost of epoxy resin work surfaces over the last 18 months. Don't forget to ask us about other options for dry or light chemical use areas. We have many work surface options to choose from.

## What is custom? EVERYTHING

One important detail to remember while working with your design is that when it comes to lab casework...its all custom. If you are considering a special design on a cabinet or a odd size to meet a need, then ask for it. All items are made to order. Special sizes and *weird* designs DO NOT necessarily cost any more than a cataloged unit. It is all made to order.

## Locks on mobiles?

Mobility is gaining popularity in todays laboratories. The ability to move and reconfigure has led to the development of the “flexible” lab design. Careful consideration should be given to lock schedules on projects consisting of mobile units. Keying adjacent rooms differently has caused problems as mobile units are interchanged between lab spaces.

## Safety equipment: Hot or Cold?

We often provide eye wash stations and safety showers to ensure the lab personnel are able to find help in case of a splash, spill or worse. One question that is often asked is; ‘At what temperature should the “rinsing water” be delivered?’ Remember to consider whether thermostatic mixing valves are required when designing your lab safety water supply.

# Environmentally Friendly Laboratories?



*This project located in Columbia, South Carolina required an FSC Maple casework to help it achieve a SILVER level LEED certification.*

## As the GREEN movement grows are we keeping up?

As our nations focus turns to a more environmentally responsible way to build, the laboratory furnishings industry is developing new products to meet those demands. Laboratories and related facilities were once known as energy hogs. That is now undergoing change.

## We at Progressive Lab

**Solutions** believe that environmentally friendly products are here to stay. Whether your project is seeking a LEED rating or you are simply wanting to do your part by requiring eco-friendly products, we can help. Your project will benefit in this regard by requesting our input early

**Wood casework can play an important role** in the GREEN movement. Our wood casework products are available in many styles and veneers meeting the requirements of new GREEN building standards. We are able to offer products that contribute towards Certified Wood or Rapidly Renewable Materials depending on your LEED strategy. We are also seeing more NAF product requests from both LEED and non LEED projects. Please note you DO NOT have to sacrifice quality to

meet these requirements. Please remember to consider your overall LEED strategy when selecting your lab casework.

**Steel casework and its role in environmentally friendly construction** has not reached the level of wood

Question:  
Are you interested primarily in a “green look”, or is your project pursuing an environmental rating and certification?

# Environmentally Friendly...

(continued from page 2)

casework for obvious reasons. However steel does require a certain recycled content or *scrap* content to meet green levels. Our steel casework and associated items meet the criteria set forth for recycled content. We also provide a finished steel product finished on a VOC free powder coat paint line. This limits waste and allows any unused paint to be recovered. This practice prevents release or “over spray” into the atmosphere.

**Fume hoods have long been known** as a necessary evil in the laboratory. Very important for safety reasons, but quite wasteful in terms of energy usage. New technologies have led to the development of a more energy efficient type of fume hood requiring less air and therefore costing less money to operate. These fume hoods are often referred to as High Performance or Low Volume hoods. While these new fume hoods have a place in certain facility designs it is more important to first review the project dynamics. How many fume hoods are required? What face velocity does the owner or local code require? How are the hoods going to be used? The type of fume hood selected should be determined after a review of many

criteria on the project. It is another example of ‘One size does NOT fit all’. We offer a complete line of fume hoods and can assist in selecting the proper type for your project.



**Green products will continue to gain popularity** in both renovation work and new construction. At Progressive Lab Solutions we are committed to the environmentally friendly effort and will continue to work with our suppliers to expand our product offering. When you are designing your next project, please contact us to see how we can help you reach your goals.



*Wood casework has always been a popular choice for educational and research laboratories. Many suppliers would have you believe that Maple and Oak are the only two “options” available. We are happy to say we offer many wood species to choose from when designing your lab. Bamboo, Ribbon Sapele, European Steamed Beech and Eucalyptus are just a few options available. Contact us when looking for a cost effective way to dress up your space!*



## Summer's Almost Here!

**Summer is a popular time to update your educational laboratory.** We get a number of calls during late spring and early summer regarding updating lab furnishings in various types of educational settings. Whether it be for a grade school lab where the kids are on summer break or a university setting with a light summer schedule, we tackle them all.

**Don't wait until it's too late!** Because of the amount of work requested in the summer months, most of our factories tend to get very busy this time of year. For this reason it is important to contact us early and let the selection process begin well before you need the work completed. With a little warning we are able to secure the required production time and meet even the most aggressive schedules.

**No job is too big or small.** As always we are able to handle the simple and complex orders. Recent “students are away” work has included furnishing replacement service fixtures, replacing damaged work tops, adding student workstations and replacing entire science lab wings. **Call now to ensure your “summer work” is completed this summer!**