

Potential Impacts

- 40% increase in monthly throughput
- Increased recycling by 34 tons annually
- 25,800 kWh electrical compressed air savings
- Each long life Kisabeth sofa reduces landfill impact by 900 pounds
- Reduced CO₂e Emissions by 23.5 Metric tons



KISABETH
FURNITURE

Handcrafted in Fort Worth, Texas since 1958, Kisabeth creates long lasting furnishings and millwork known for their superior quality.

For over half a century Kisabeth Furniture has maintained a reputation for crafting durable, beautiful furnishings by hand. Each piece is made start to finish in Fort Worth, Texas by a dedicated and experienced team. All products are made in one location, through traditional methods, allowing them to achieve a high level of customization and personalized experience for their clientele. Engineered for everyday use, they are not only an expression of personal style, but an investment as an heirloom product and a sustainable solution to minimizing use of natural resources and environmental impact.

A high level of wood framing supports the ability to reupholster furnishings for generations and eliminates negative environmental impacts compared to typical disposable furnishings.

The Situation

Kisabeth has a long history of exceeding customer expectations on their journey for continuous improvement. As a leader in its industry, Kisabeth also values its unique ability to preserve and protect the planet's resources while producing heirloom furnishings.

The Solution

Kisabeth was interested in learning more about how applying Lean manufacturing principles could improve its ability to deliver its custom furnishings and millwork to its customers. Kisabeth contacted Lynn Tomaszewski with TMAC to schedule a site visit to walk the production floor and discuss opportunities for improvement. TMAC began by working with a core team of department supervisors on the principles of lean manufacturing including identification of value and non-value-added activities.

The team identified the importance of maintaining its high level of craftsmanship in building its products and was interested in improving its efficiencies to get projects completed for its customers. The training by TMAC helped the Kisabeth team to see its activities from a different perspective. Lean efforts stressed the importance of performing tasks to construct and assemble its furnishings and less efforts in walking, moving, adjusting and getting ready to perform an operation. TMAC training also focused on teaching the team how to keep its projects moving throughout its assembly process and eliminate bottlenecks. The Kisabeth team immediately addressed the issues they had discovered and were excited that within one month they were now able to increase its production throughput by more than 40%. The team also identified a bottleneck in their sewing department and were able to determine how to increase their sewing efficiency by installing new motor controls.

Customer:
Kisabeth Furniture

Industry:
Furniture
Manufacturing

NAICS:
337121

TMAC Services
Lean Manufacturing,
Value Stream
Mapping, E3
Assessment &
Coaching

Who to contact:

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TMAC's next step was to participate in an E3 assessment to educate them on the best practices for reduction of energy consumption and minimization of material wastes, as well as to investigate new technology to generate long term sustainable solutions.

The Kisabeth team was able to identify several opportunities to minimize material loss and recycle items to prevent their disposal into their solid waste and ultimately into the landfill. The team also calculated that each time an average Kisabeth sofa was reupholstered it prevented an average of 150 pounds of wood waste from entering the landfill. They also recognized that the reupholstering method was able to prevent the use of additional virgin lumber and reduce timber harvest itself, that is, the removal of trees from the forest, and secondly by reducing the disturbance caused by logging operations.

The Kisabeth team is now ready to continue their Lean journey and their efforts to promote sustainability in their operations and for their clientele. They are celebrating over 60 years of world class craftsmanship, while challenging their thinking to maintain long term sustainability for the next 60 years.

“It was really great to have another set of well-trained eyes come into our facility to help us identify these opportunities. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with TMAC in 2019 and our efforts to make positive changes to advance our ability to meet the needs of our customers.”

KEITH WEBSTER-CEO



Kisabeth Team and their Value Stream Map