

LEED COUNCIL FOCUSES ON A MEMBER: HORWEEN LEATHER COMPANY

Horween Leather
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Horween Leather is a family run business that has been providing leather tanning and finishing services for over 102 years and employs approximately 120 employees in the Chicago area. The company was founded in 1905 by Isadore Horween, who came to the United States from the Ukraine to attend the world's fair. After working as a superintendent in a plant for many years he decided to start his own leather company. Isadore said, "We should take the best of everything; the best hides, the best oils, the best dyes and finishes - then we need to do whatever it takes to make that leather the best. The price goes on last, and if we can't sell it for what it's worth, we shouldn't make that leather."

The company has experienced some challenges over the years. As the competition of companies overseas continues to grow, Horween Leather had to find their niche in the leather market by being the best. "Making the best means doing lots of little things right," states President Arnold "Skip" Horween. "We've never mistaken fastest or cheapest with best, and we continue to use formulas that cut no corners using the highest quality components in all of our products."

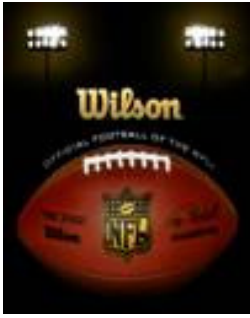
Horween Leather's location in the Elston Corridor Planned Manufacturing District has helped the firm in two ways. Transportation and workforce are two advantages of the company's location. The location of the company has been very important for transportation of goods. When the company first started, products were transported via the river on barges. Now, products are transported via trucks that access the Kennedy Expressway less than one block away. Also, the company's central location makes it easy to draw a skilled workforce.



Skip said, "The city has improved greatly in the last several years as a place to do business. He is currently interested in working with the city to improve the borders of his property and the municipal lot to the north. Currently this area attracts trespassers and the homeless.

Horween Leather uses the LEED Council as a great source of updates and information. The company would like additional information on any developments on energy and waste to profit- exchanging waste goods that other people can use.

Some of Horween Leathers' clients are Nike, Spalding and Wilson. Horween has provided all of the leather for Wilson 's Official NFL footballs since the 1950's, having developed the trademarked Tanned in Tack® tanning process.



As a lunch suggestion Skip suggests the Goose Island Brewery at Willow & Marcey or John's Place at Racine & Webster.

Thank you, Horween Leather for being the BEST and may your legacy continue!