



“Honka has made a long term effort to make its production as environmentally friendly as possible. Today virtually 100% of the waste generated at Honka is reprocessed. The heating energy needed at Honka is produced by burning production by-products, and deliveries are concentrated in our own shipping department, which makes its deliveries as economical as possible.

Personnel at our Forest Operations Department in particular have been trained extensively in recent years respecting the requirements of Finland’s new Forest Act and Conservation Act. From the standpoint of conservation and environmental protection, the new statutes, which took effect in 1997, are among the world’s most progressive. They focus on sustainable forestry, the preservation of biodiversity, and socially and economically sound operations. The Honka staff training aims at the attainment of a level of understanding which will make it possible to examine the impact of measures at all logging sites more broadly than the legislation requires.

In timber acquisition, great attention has been given to transport. At Honka’s Karstula factory, for example, about 80% of all the timber comes from within 60 kilometers (37 miles) of the facility.

In its consumption of materials, Honka has become extremely thrifty. Utilization of raw material is monitored constantly. New legislation on waste management into effect in Finland in 1994. The statute requires that attempts be made first to utilize wastes as materials and secondly as energy. Under the law, taking wastes to a landfill is a final resort only.

At Honka, the processing of timber generates various types of by-products with economic and processing value. The bark is used for energy production, landscaping and park construction, gardening, and composting. Chips are used as a raw material by the chemical pulp industry. Cutter chips are used in energy production, and as stable litter. Sawdust is used as a raw material by the chipboard industry, and in energy production. Log cutoffs are used by the chemical pulp industry as raw material, and are utilized for energy production and outdoor fires. Board cutoffs are used in the chipboard industry as raw material and in energy production.

No wood material becomes actual waste. Even contaminated wood scraps are reused as foundation material for storage areas.

Terminating the use of wood-protection agents was a big step forward in making Honka’s operations more environmentally friendly. At Honka, pressure-treated wood is only used in structures which come into direct contact with the ground or other sources of moisture. Cutoffs from pressure-treated wood are used as slabs for outdoor walks and patios, for example.

Today plastic waste is baled. In the future, it will be used in energy production or as a raw material for paving. When combined with asphalt, the plastic enhances the durability of the traditional paving material.

As for other wastes, steel bands used in packing are gathered and shipped for reuse. Waste oils are also recovered. When appropriate, they are used for the lubrication of machinery. For the most part, they are delivered to waste management companies that purify the oil for further use. Oil filters, wastes generated in the gluing of wood, batteries, fluorescent tubes and other toxic wastes are shipped to the Ekokem processing plant near Helsinki for possible reuse.” - HONKA