

BUSINESS

Modern Tool, Inc.

If you have explored or climbed the “big rigs” on Machinery Hill at the Minnesota State Fair, then you have most likely seen bits and pieces that came from Modern Tool, Inc. Each product starts its journey at Modern Tool as a flat sheet of metal. With heat, pressure and the talent of the crew, it develops into a specific shape depending on the unique purpose it is intended for. Some parts are small brackets, while other parts are obvious footboards for large machinery such as tractors or sports utility vehicles. Each product is robotically inspected to verify the quality, then shipped to the customer. This process occurs in the Modern Tool warehouse for approximately 4-6 weeks.

Modern Tool, Inc. is not a new manufacturing facility; it first opened in 1960. The company underwent ownership changes in 2014 and was acquired by the TRG group (The Reserve Group). Dale Pahan became Chief Operating Officer and has been building the Coon Rapids facility back up to making a profit and building a positive team atmosphere. “We are proud of turning around a company that was failing, we have come a long ways and we have a long ways to go. The team here is very strong and I’m proud of everybody that is a part of it,” Pahan says.

The company has focused on making specific improvements with management and training, while also making large investments in state-of-the-art technology. A different approach to management is used at Modern Tool compared to the average manufacturing facility. Most management meetings will take place *on the floor* instead of around a conference room table. “If it wasn’t

for these people, we wouldn’t be able to do all of this, so all of our meetings are here for them” states Pahan. As Human Resources Manager, Jennifer Wagner has set programs in place to recruit and train workers from Coon Rapids High School as well as Anoka Technical College. “Many of our employees come in, start out in knock-out, we cross-train and try to beef up their skill set so now they are supervising employees and running all sorts of machines,” Wagner explains. “This way, they feel more invested in our company and also have more skills to add to their resume.” As technology has changed over the decades, so has the capabilities and safety of the Modern Tool Inc., warehouse. “The addition of this new machinery is like giving our employees the keys to a new hot-rod,” says Wagner. As Modern Tool, Inc. continues to streamline their processes and invest in their employees, they encourage the hard-working community of Coon Rapids to join their team. Pahan says, “our doors are always open for new employment. We are always looking for good quality people – visit Modern Tool for open opportunities.”

Quick Facts:

- » Address: 1200 Northdale Blvd.
- » Modern Tool Inc. currently employs 120 people.
- » Welding needs to be precise, down to the millimeter.

