

Chipping away at wood waste

Hardwood flooring manufacturer eliminates disposal costs with WEIMA shredder

Kellogg Hardwoods opened its doors in 1993, manufacturing high-end flooring and custom moldings for the cabinet shop, builder and homeowner markets. For its flooring production, the Bethel, Conn.-based company rips planks no shorter than 7' long and anywhere between 3" and 20" wide. The resulting scrap from its rip saw operation resulted in a huge disposal cost.

"We were ripping 5,000 to 10,000 board feet of material per day," says Allen Kellogg, co-owner. "We end up with strips that come off the sides of the board when they are cut to width, and that waste piles up quickly, probably two or three bundles every day. We were paying outside companies to come in and grind it, which cost us about \$5,000 per month."

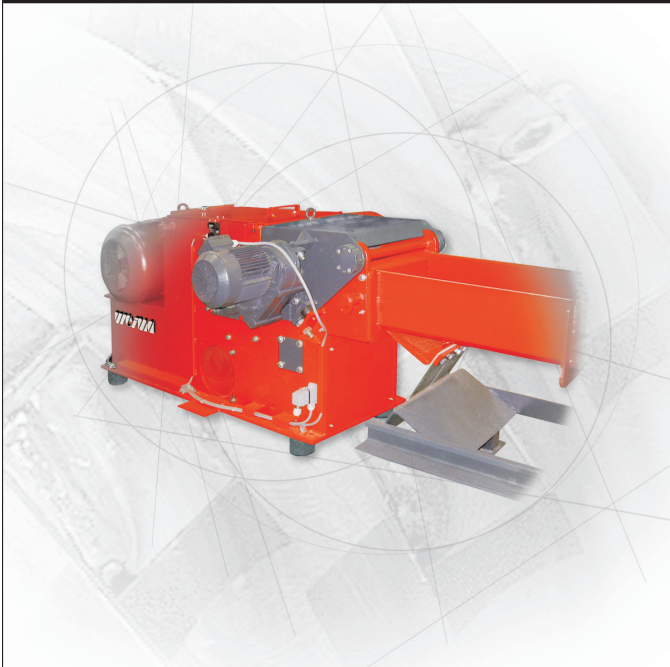
Looking for a way to recoup the cost of its wood waste disposal, Kellogg Hardwoods purchased a WEIMA Tiger 400 horizontal shredder equipped with a vibratory conveyor and in-feed

pinch roll system that feeds the material into the rotor. Now, the saw operator takes the waste as it comes off the saw and deposits it onto the conveyor. After the shredder grinds the strips to ½" or smaller, a 15-hp blower removes the chips and deposits them into a bin. The company gives the chips away to local farmers, who come and haul it off for animal bedding. Kellogg currently produces about 80 cubic yards of chips per week.

"Before we purchased the WEIMA grinder, we had a couple environmental equipment companies come in with a 12' diameter tub grinder and another machine that can chip a 30" tree, but the kiln-dried hardwood strip bundles broke the machines," says Kellogg. "But our WEIMA shredder can handle up to 20 or 30 strips at one time, though we usually only put a few in at a time. It stays ahead of the production off the rip saw, so we can add capacity without having to worry about a bottleneck with the shredder."

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