

Guardian Industries Upgrades IG with Super Spacer®

> > There is a changing climate in the insulating glass industry, and it's not just global warming. Increasingly stringent energy regulations and a public that's leaning green have made many fenestration industry professionals reexamine product lines and opt for more thermally-efficient and sustainable components.

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Historically, Guardian Industries has produced its residential IG using aluminum box spacers, but recently made the switch to Super Spacer® to improve the thermal performance and long-term durability of its units.



“The NFRC (National Fenestration Ratings Council) and government regulators have raised the bar, and we are answering the call,” said Shane Sieracki, general manager for Guardian’s Webster, Mass. manufacturing plant. “Aluminum spacer for residential markets could no longer meet energy efficiency requirements, and it was time for a change.”

Sieracki and his team examined a number of spacer systems before choosing Super Spacer.

“We looked at the available options and Super Spacer was the choice for us,” Sieracki said. “Not just because of its thermal performance and durability, which are top of the line; but, also because our customers were asking for it by name. Super Spacer has a reputation for being the best, and that’s what we are giving our customers.”

Guardian took advantage of Edgetech’s Technical Service team, which visited the plant and listened to the needs of the company. The team then put together a custom line layout design that met all of their needs, assisted with the installation of new machinery and provided comprehensive training to ensure a seamless transition.

Guardian officially made the switch in September 2008 and, “it is going great,” according to Sieracki. “The transition went smoothly. The equipment took about a week to install and we did a week of training with Edgetech. Then, we were up-and-running.”

Sieracki continued, “Our customers have been extremely pleased with the quality they are receiving with Super Spacer. The acceptance of our new products has been terrific; it was clearly a great move.” Headquartered in Auburn Hills, Mich., Guardian Industries is one of the world’s largest suppliers of float glass and

fabricated glass products with nearly 19,000 employees spanning five continents. In Webster, Mass. alone, the company employs 70 and



occupies a nearly 175,000 square-foot facility dedicated to custom glass tempering, as well as IG unit and shower door fabrication.

Guardian’s investment in Super Spacer and equipment is just one part of its efforts to be a stand-out supplier of IG to the industry.

“We believe firmly in reinvesting in our products to stay ahead of the competition in terms of quality, performance and product efficiency,” Sieracki said. “We view recent industry trends as an opportunity to improve our offerings and differentiate ourselves. As we move forward and when the market rebounds, we are prepared to meet an increased demand with superior products.”

Guardian’s Webster, Mass. plant serves manufacturers within a 350-mile radius, offering a 72-hour lead-time on most orders.

“Quality and short lead-times are the greatest values we provide to customers,” Sieracki said. “We custom-fabricate IG units to specification, including

complex shapes and arches. Super Spacer is simple to use, even for the most demanding design. As a result, Super Spacer has greatly enhanced our ability to service many markets.”

Guardian is a diversified global manufacturing company with leading positions in float glass, fabricated glass products, fiberglass insulation and other building materials for commercial, residential and automotive markets. Through its Science & Technology Center, Guardian is at the forefront of innovation including development of high performance glass coatings and other advanced products.



Guardian, its subsidiaries and affiliates operate facilities throughout North America, Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

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