

# Reaching solid goals in Indiana



**Featuring:**  
**Premium Surface Fabrication**  
Westfield, IN  
Owner: Ken Gennaro

## Formed to fit

Corian, the solid surface material of choice offered by PSF, is made of an acrylic-based blend. Due to the chemical makeup of acrylic, Corian solid surface can be heated and subsequently bent or formed without cracking or breaking (if done properly).

In the past, before moving into the new facility, PSF would heat the solid surface sheet in a convection heating oven, place it into a two-part (male and female) mold, clamp it and then let it stand for cool-down.

With the purchase of an Elkom heating system

and Elkom vacuum press, offered in the U.S. through Elkom North America, the lengthy fore-mentioned process is no longer used.

With the new heating system, the material actually comes into contact with the heating unit, thus speeding up the heating process. In the conventional oven, hot air simply circulated around the material; the

system didn't actually press down on the material.

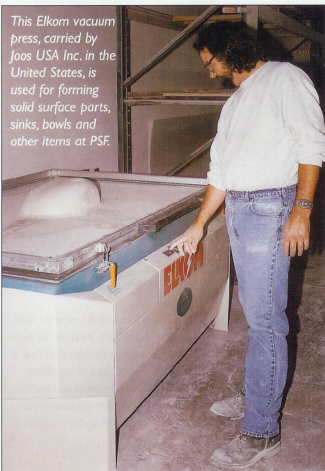
"We can take a full sheet of material, heat it up to 325 degrees and bend it into whatever shape we need it in," says Gennaro. "The heater we have now allows the heat to penetrate to the center more quickly."

After the material is heated, it is transferred to the vacuum press. The material is placed over the male side of a mold and then a silicon membrane is brought down over the material. As the membrane is brought down, it is vacuumed tight around the material, thus forming it over the mold. There is also a cooling unit on the vacuum press, which allows the mold to cool down much faster than letting it air cool.

"We can pull the heat out, which allows me to turn the part faster," says Gennaro. "We can heat up a piece of material in about seven minutes, and we can cool down a piece in about seven to 10 minutes." ■



Gennaro checks out a solid surface part after its heated in the Elkom heating system and formed in the Elkom vacuum press.



This Elkom vacuum press, carried by Joos USA Inc. in the United States, is used for forming solid surface parts, sinks, bowls and other items at PSF.

Elkom North America, Inc. Ph: 908-620-3900 [www.elkomusa.com](http://www.elkomusa.com)

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