

ON THE JOB with JAMES

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On the Job with James: Mercer Action Floor Systems

From large manufacturers to small family farms some truly great companies call the 25th Senate District home. Each month I'm working at one of these companies to learn more about what they do and how they do it. This month 'On the Job with James' was at Mercer's Action Floor Systems in Iron County.

Known for its excellence in quality, Action Floor Systems has been a leader in sport floor system production for the last 30 years. From sports facilities, to schools and theatres Action Floors has the ability to manufacture a product that is custom made to fit the specific needs of each individual client.

Action Floors takes raw or 'green' white maple boards from mills around the Midwest and Canada and turns them into some of the best hardwood sports floors in the world. These boards are high in moisture, so they must first go through a drying process. I was surprised by the science that goes into drying the wood. Once the wood is ready for processing it enters the facility and begins a highly technical trip towards becoming a piece of flooring. Each piece is scanned by a machine that determines the most efficient way to cut the board to minimize waste. That board is then cut to precise measurements. Various stations plane, router, end cut and match the pieces before they are packed into tight bundles. Pieces that are not wide enough for their primary wood flooring are recycled into another hardwood flooring product. One of the great things about working at Action Floors is that the workers rotate stations throughout the day, so you never get bored!

For a time, I worked as a carpenter, so I understand what goes into laying down hardwood flooring. I was surprised to learn that Action Floors makes the 'sub-flooring' system for under their floors. Action Floors has a variety of underlayments built specifically to absorb shock. The client chooses the style of sub-floor based on what the facility will be used for.

Action Floors provides nearly 100 good paying jobs right here in N.W Wisconsin. Demand for their floors is so great they cannot currently fill all the orders. That's amazing, but what amazed me the most was the effort they make in helping the environment. Action Floors has invested millions of dollars into technology to minimize waste. They use almost every fiber of wood that comes through their facility. In fact, they sell what little waste they do create to a vendor who uses it to add fiber to plastic decking. The UW system recently determined that their facility actually has a negative carbon footprint!

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Action Floors. They offer a good wage and benefit package, treat their employees well and provide an environmentally responsible product that is world renowned. They are exactly the kind of company we want here. Action Floors is currently looking for good employees so give them a call and schedule an interview. 715.476.3512

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