



Case Study: Office Lockers

Sustainable Solutions for a Global Firm

Toronto, Ontario

SOUTHWEST **SOLUTIONS** GROUP

“This client wanted something substantial. They wanted to invest in lockers that would work well and look great for a long time.”

– Toronto-based Spacesaver consultant

A Commitment to Sustainability

With a focus on sustainable living, this consumer goods company encompasses hundreds of brands worldwide and is committed to creating products and distribution systems that minimize environmental impacts. It also invests in social and environmental programs that promote long-term solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems.

When the time came to remodel the firm’s Canadian headquarters, the planning team wanted its commitment to sustainability to extend to every aspect of the renovation project. One of the top priorities was to create a modern work environment using furniture and fixtures that would endure years of daily use.



An open concept

In order to reflect current trends and optimize the space in a Toronto high-rise, the firm wanted to pursue an open office or “hoteling” concept throughout the headquarters. In this approach to interior design, employees don’t have assigned desks or offices. Instead, they choose different work environments that best suit their needs throughout a particular day. An employee might work in a small “phone booth” for an hour or two, then move to a conference room or casual meeting space to collaborate with colleagues, and then spend the rest of the day at a workstation in a “heads down” area.

While this design model is appealing for a number of reasons, it can result in a lack of personal storage space. Without permanently assigned desks or offices, employees need a place to store electronic devices, workout gear, snacks, and other items. For this project, the design team decided that 400 locker openings over the firm’s two floors would provide enough personal storage for current employees while also providing room to grow in the future.



Without permanently assigned desks or offices, employees need a place to store their personal belongings.

A Secure, Sustainable Solution

The designers knew that this particular client wanted lockers and other furnishings that would reflect the firm's commitment to quality and sustainability. The design team reached out to the local Spacesaver distributor to not only learn about available locker options, but also to find out more about Spacesaver's commitment to sustainable manufacturing processes.

They learned that Spacesaver is a 100% employee-owned firm that's still located in the small Wisconsin town where it was founded nearly 50 years ago. They also learned that the company has implemented a number of resource conservation measures over the years, including an on-site water treatment system and a program that won a statewide award for reduction in energy use.



Spacesaver is committed to a sustainable future. Here are just a few of the steps we've taken to reduce our environmental impact:

- Use high-quality recycled steel
- Recycle waste oil, raw steel, painted scrap, paper and packaging materials, and electronics
- Use an on-site reverse osmosis water treatment system that discharges potable water
- Redistribute heat from paint ovens throughout facility during winter
- Maintain a 7-acre prairie and wetland area

In addition, we're committed to producing high-quality products that endure for decades, reducing the need to continually purchase replacements. Our heavy-duty personal storage lockers are long-time favorites of police departments and the military, and we've adapted that same rugged steel frame into a sleek look to suit modern offices.





Putting it all Together

After determining that Spacesaver's sustainability efforts were a good match for the client, the design team worked with the local Spacesaver distributor to design lockers that would be a perfect fit for employees' needs and the available space. They designed alcoves for the lockers near entry points to allow for convenient access. They chose a five-tier option that would optimize space and storage capacity, and they had the lockers fitted with tumble locks to prevent issues with lost keys and dead batteries.

Lockers pictured here:

- **5-tier 68" tall Day Use Lockers**
- **Steel doors in Cottonwood**
- **Combination locks**
- **4" recessed base**
- **Custom graphics**

Contact Spacesaver for more design options.

Finally, to give the lockers a thoroughly modern look while keeping options open in the future, the designers worked with the Spacesaver consultant to design a unique look for the locker numbering system. The design team chose the font and the size, and the Spacesaver consultant worked with his contact at a local vinyl firm to produce the numbers and apply them to the locker doors. In the future, these numbers can be removed and replaced to give the lockers a new, fresh look without the expense and environmental impact of ordering new lockers.

The end result is a sturdy yet attractive solution that provides secure storage in a sustainable way.

Space is optimized with custom-sized lockers that fit perfectly into purpose-built alcoves.

