

Economic Profile

Colonial Bronze Company

Torrington, Connecticut

CONTINUED USE



Brass Hardware
Manufacturer

CLEANUP OVERSEEN BY

Connecticut Department of Energy and
Environmental Protection

The Colonial Bronze Company, known to their employees and customers as “the Bronze,” began manufacturing brass hardware at their Torrington, Connecticut, facility in 1927. Manufacturing processes generated wastes containing heavy metals and solvents. Historically, wastes were stored in a surface impoundment at the facility, contaminating soil and groundwater. With oversight by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Bronze cleaned up the facility under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup Program (formerly the RCRA Corrective Action Program).

The Bronze finished cleanup in 2019, allowing this third-generation family-owned and -operated business to continue manufacturing high-end hardware. The Bronze has 55 employees earning an estimated total of more than \$3.4 million per year.



ANNUAL SALES

\$9.6 million



EMPLOYEES

55



ANNUAL WAGES

\$3.5 million

For more information about RCRA and the economic benefits of site reuse, visit www.epa.gov/hw/learn-about-hazardous-waste-cleanups





FOR OVER 100 YEARS, MANUFACTURING HAS BEEN THE BACKBONE OF TORRINGTON'S ECONOMY. MANY OF THESE INDUSTRIES LEFT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPRINT THAT HAS BEEN A FINANCIAL HURDLE FOR CONTINUED OPERATIONS OR REDEVELOPMENT. WE ARE ALWAYS GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND BRING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT A SAFE WORK SPACE FOR OUR LEGACY MANUFACTURERS.

- Torrington Mayor Elinor Carbone

The Bronze's cleanup included removal of sludge and soils near the surface impoundment. Underground storage tanks containing petroleum product were removed and groundwater was treated on-site.

Since 2006, the Bronze has achieved Recycled Content Certification from a leading third-party certification company. To earn certification, the Bronze uses a minimum of 94% Pre-Consumer Recycled Copper Alloy Content in every piece of hardware produced. The certification means the Bronze's products can help residential and commercial projects meet green building standards and earn certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

In the last decade, the Bronze began developing copper alloy hardware to help prevent hospital-acquired infections. In 2011, the Bronze won a Nightingale Award at the Healthcare Design Expo for their CuSalus brand – an antimicrobial copper alloy that kills 99.99% of six common hospital bacteria within two hours. The Nightingale Award recognizes innovative products that contribute to a healing environment.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Bronze was an essential medical equipment manufacturer and produced CuSalus handles for use on medical equipment. In 2020, when two local hospitals were running out of IV poles for COVID-19 patients, the Bronze constructed nearly 100 antimicrobial copper alloy IV poles to fill the community's need.

The successful cleanup of the Colonial Bronze facility paved the way for the company to continue creating innovative products that address local and national needs, all from within the building that started it all.



The Colonial Bronze Company began manufacturing brass hardware at the Torrington, Connecticut, facility in 1927. The Bronze continues to operate in the same building more than 90 years later.



Today, employees at the Bronze continue to handcraft every piece of hardware from start to finish.