

THE WHOLESALE

News of Plumbing • Heating • Cooling • Industrial Piping Distribution



Consolidated Supply opens 18th location

TIGARD, ORE. — Located in Pacific, Wash., and serving the South Puget Sound region, Consolidated Supply's new 20,000-square-foot warehouse is under the leadership of industry veteran Garth Hatfield. Supplying both plumbing and hydronic heating supplies, the Pacific location also boasts a 2,500-square-foot designer plumbing showroom, The Fixture Gallery.

A grand opening event was held on
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Elkay Plumbing Products Div. combines faucet manufacturing

OAK BROOK, ILL. — Elkay Plumbing Products Division president Steve Rogers announced in late September that the company will be streamlining its faucet manufacturing facilities.

Targeted for completion this month, Elkay's commercial faucet production will be moved from a company-owned St. Charles, Ill., facility to another company facility in Savanna, Ill. The move is designed to strengthen the assets of
(Turn to Consolidation ... page 47.)

In just the last six years, United Pipe & Steel Corp. has doubled its business. Serving 22 states in the eastern U.S., the company now operates four distribution centers — Franklin, Ind.; Elyria, Ohio; Easton, Pa.; and Ipswich, Mass. — that make daily runs with their own fleet of flat-bed trucks. In 2009, United anticipates opening distribution centers in the Chicago area and the Carolinas. Learn more on page 70.

Finding a showroom niche

Frank Webb's Bath Centers opens Accessible Living Bath Design Center

METHUEN, MASS. — The premise is simple: You don't have to sacrifice style when creating a bath for a person requiring accessible living features. This is at the heart of Frank Webb's Bath Centers' new 2000-square-foot Accessible Living Bath Design Center in Methuen.

"In the past, the bath industry thought of 'handicapped bathrooms' and wheelchair access," said Jeffrey Pope, president of F.W.

Webb Company, the wholesale leader that owns the growing chain of Frank Webb's Bath Centers throughout New England and Upstate New York. "This was reflected in a narrow line of industrial-looking products that were chosen solely out of necessity and there was very little choice.

"Now there is a drive for more choice, more options," continued Pope. "When you look at

the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and a growing population of Baby Boomers who are looking at aging in place for their parents and themselves, the world changes. This generation expects more options and a higher level of aesthetics — and we have created those choices in this Design Center."

Frank Webb's Accessible Living Bath Design
(Turn to Accessible design... page 44.)



INDUSTRY NEWS

Consolidation planned at Elkay

(Continued from Elkay, page 1.)

Elkay's new Commercial Business Unit and provide faucet expansion for the education, healthcare, hospitality and public venues segments the unit currently serves.

Elkay's Residential Business Unit produces three brands of faucets for the home: Elkay, Phylrich® and Doralfe®. Elkay branded faucets are currently manufactured in the St. Charles facility, while Phylrich and Doralfe production is in Burbank, Calif. After manufacturing consolidation, all three faucet lines will be produced in one larger, more efficient Elkay-owned facility on the East Coast; this new facility will provide for future portfolio expansion and incorporate the latest faucet manufacturing technologies. According to Elkay, each brand's unique market presence will remain unchanged. Targeted completion for the residential faucet manufacturing consolidation is December 2009.

"We constantly evaluate our strategic direction, product lines and facilities for effectiveness," said Rogers. "We determined that consolidating our faucet manufacturing facilities will enable the Elkay Commercial, Elkay Residential, Phylrich and Doralfe brands to better meet our customers' demands for more individualized lifestyle kitchen and bath solutions." Rogers also noted that the faucet production reorganization will not disrupt fulfillment of existing or future Elkay, Phylrich and Doralfe orders, and that quality and performance of the offerings will remain strong.

When the renovations necessary to create the new Elkay Commercial faucet production process in Savannah are complete, and the production of Elkay Residential, Phylrich and Doralfe faucets is officially relocated, specific resource plans for affected employees will be finalized.

For more information, visit www.elkayusa.com, www.phylrich.com and www.doralfe.com.