

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



As the country reopens, relationships will be renewed. KEP is and always has been about relationships – so this Independence Day was more special than any in recent memory. For those who were always grateful for their friends, family and other blessings – this was a holiday to truly enjoy. For those who took it for granted – we hope that this year they felt a new, deeper appreciation for their relationships.

Our country always faces great challenges, but as long as the word united is in our name, we can look forward to coming together, not just for the 4th of July, but as fellow citizens, friends, family members, and coworkers who are all part of the same community!

LEADER VIEWS

A SUPPLY CHAIN WITH WEAK LINKS

Can you risk it?

Assess the risks associated with your supply chain partners.

- Adaptability**
Can your partner adapt an existing product – or quickly prototype a new one – to meet an unexpected change?
- Sourcing**
Does your partner plan ahead to secure backup energy, compound and natural resources?
- Financially Sound**
Does your partner have solid financial ratios? Do they maintain positive cash flows?
- Efficiency**
Is your partner efficient – not just a buzzword – but has implemented a true LEAN operation?
- Distribution**
Does your partner's distribution channel avoid many global hazards?
- Proactivity**
Is your partner gung-ho to go lockstep with you to accomplish goals...or just a meek vendor going through the motions?

KEP checks **YES** to every box

with real customer stories to prove it.

KEP - The Real Business Continuity Plan

Contact KEP today

Get an estimate one day later. In that number you will find the total value of everything on this list.

800.331.4762 | KentElastomer.com

Manufacturing and distributing from America's Heartland.

Does your business have a continuity plan?

Is your partner unable to quickly adapt? Are you in need of a proactive partner? This checklist is a helpful tool for assessing risk in your supply chain – before this risk affects your bottom line.

Learn more about our dedication to building great supplier relationships and helping reduce risk for our customers in *Strategies for Successful Procurement Partnerships*.

[Check out the KEP White Paper Series.](#)

60 STORIES



In 1960, KEP began manufacturing quality natural rubber latex tubing in the U.S. Since then, we've expanded our domestic capabilities to produce non-latex compound alternatives and dip molded products.

"Buy American" is a nice sentiment – but there are reasons beyond the sentimental. Of the many important reasons for a business to have a relationship with a domestic producer, price is just one of them. At KEP, we offer domestic and diversified manufacturing platforms, a value-based custom model (lower overall costs and unmatched service), and long-term loyalty programs. Help eliminate risk and add value with reliable sourcing, on-time delivery and more. Learn more about the benefits of American-made in our [Leader Views blog](#).

Follow KEP on [LinkedIn](#) for more stories throughout the month.

SERVICE YOU CAN SEE

KEP is ready for America to restart. In fact, we never stopped.

KEP retooled to fill emergency orders for urgently needed medical supplies. All high quality – made and distributed real fast. We're ready for anything.

THAT'S SERVICE YOU CAN SEE

We have, and always will, practice our commitment to delivering value to our customers. KEP adapted machines to make bellows for ventilators, turned tourniquets into straps for medical masks – all while protecting our number one resource – our employees.

You can count on us – KEP manufactures in the USA and distributes quickly from our midwestern base. [Tell us](#) about the solution you need!

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



For over 25 years, Cristal Westfall has been a team member at our Winesburg facility. Currently, Cristal works as an inspector in custom dipping and doubles as a line coach on our latex tubing strip line. Cristal goes above and beyond for our team. During the pandemic, Cristal agreed to change her work hours, starting her days at 4:30am. She has even reported to work on scheduled vacation days to take temperatures, while greeting everyone at the door in a pleasant, positive manner.

[Read more about Cristal's story in our Leader Views blog.](#)

ANNIVERSARIES



While many of us were caring for Pet Rocks (which were all the rage 45 years ago), Darlene Hines and Shirley Shrock were making a much greater commitment – joining our KEP team! With a combined experience of over 200 years, we are so proud of Darlene, Shirley and all of our team members celebrating anniversaries this month:

- Darlene Hines – Winesburg – 45 years on 7/9
- Shirley Shrock – Winesburg – 45 years on 7/9
- Connie Rex – Winesburg – 38 years on 7/6
- Doris Airwyke – Winesburg – 32 years on 7/6
- Rhonda Brenneman – Winesburg – 30 years on 7/11
- Jeffrey Wimley – Kent – 17 years on 7/30
- Eddie Kendrick – Kent – 12 years on 7/28
- Mark Long – Kent – 9 years on 7/12
- Christine Ayers – Winesburg – 4 years on 7/27
- Kayla Hamlin – Winesburg – 3 years on 7/17
- Bayley Austin – Winesburg – 3 years on 7/24
- Kirsten Reinker – Mogadore – 3 years on 7/24
- Tammy Parsons – Winesburg – 3 years on 7/26
- Patrick Blutcher – Kent – 2 years on 7/9
- Trevor Stephenson – Kent – 2 years on 7/23
- Karly Rice – Kent – 1 year on 7/1
- Merangely Figueroa Garcia – Kent – 1 year on 7/17