



## LEADERS IN TUBING AND DIP MOLDING

### Happy Labor Day from Kent Elastomer Products

Since 1960, when we first opened our doors, our focus has always been to deliver high-quality products and comprehensive services to our customers.

Just as importantly, we are grateful for all of our employees' hard work in each of our facilities. We are proud of each team member who rises to the challenges and helps us deliver high quality products, new efficiencies and ideas on how to improve our operations. Some of these great employees have honored us by choosing to stay at KEP for decades. Thanks to you, we continue to be leaders in tubing and dip molding!

#### LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP



### Recognized by Smart Business Cleveland as a 2017 Business Longevity Award Honoree for Our Ability to Adapt to Change

Our present successes are rooted in our history of rapidly adapting to change —so how about a quick KEP history lesson? Founded in 1960 under the name Kent Latex Products, we began with manufacturing natural rubber latex for the

medical, dental, food and distribution markets. After years of growth and expansion, in the early 1980's we added dip molding to our product line and began manufacturing products like gloves, drains and catheters.

During this time was the onslaught of the AIDS crisis, and as personal protective equipment such as latex gloves grew in popularity, natural latex products became targeted by claims of latex sensitivity. To be proactive we bought our first thermoplastic extrusion line. We began offering TPE products and they grew into a substantial part of the business, leading us to change our name to Kent Elastomer Products Inc. in 1998.

Over the years we've grown into a three-facility company that rapidly adapts to change. Today, we're one of the world's largest manufacturers of precision-engineered, natural rubber latex and thermoplastic tubing. We also continually expand our offerings with dip-molded products, PVC tubing products and more. Since 2006, we have been dedicated to finding and sustaining Lean improvements in our facilities. Under our President Bob Oborn's leadership, our team maintains, sustains and continues to improve our processes and our products.

For our ability to adapt to change and evolve over the past 50+ years in business, we were recognized by Smart Business Cleveland as a 2017 [Business Longevity Awards Honoree](#). We're honored to have been recognized alongside so many other great businesses at the awards luncheon that took place on August 3.



We can't wait to see what the next 50 years will bring in terms of growth and change for the industry and our business. Keeping up with change means continually evolving our processes and improving our products. The benefit to our customers is a high-quality product, competitive pricing and short lead times. That's why we're so dedicated!



**Meeting Demands with our Free-Bands**

Our Free-Band® non-latex surgical tourniquet band is an in-demand product for doctors' offices, reference labs, blood banks and hospitals. It's found in IV start kits, is used for blood donations, regular blood tests and more. Manufactured from a blend of thermoplastics available exclusively through KEP that is the perfect replacement for latex, our Free-Band® Tourniquets meet strict biocompatibility standards in the medical industry and are available in a wide variety of options.

Learn more about our [Free-Band® non-latex surgical tourniquet bands](#)! Ready to order? [Ask KEP](#)!

## THIS MONTH'S KEP CHALLENGE

### Need materials ready to ship same day? No problem!

We were working with a leading manufacturer in the global orthodontic market when they asked for our help creating a just-in-time inventory system. They needed material ready to ship within one day, so a system had to be set up in a Kanban design to automatically replenish their inventories.

Historically, we processed materials to fill specific customer orders. To hold finished material in a Kanban fashion and meet the client's needs, we needed to change the way we stored, handled and labeled our products. A team of Kent Elastomer Products employees was selected to determine a new process flow as well as the restocking requirements and time frame for the Kanban. Thanks to their solutions stock was filled on time, and the customer continues to submit releases that we often fill and ship same day. We've followed this process with many satisfied customers since.

Need materials ready and waiting for their release? If your business would benefit from a just-in-time inventory process, [Ask KEP](#)!

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Curt Dixon, Extrusion Operator, Mogadore Facility

What better occasion than Labor Day to say how proud we are to have talented, hard-working team members like Curt Dixon.

Curt is our very first extrusion operator — and we're proud to say he's been a KEP team member for 40 years! Born and raised in Kent, Ohio, Curt graduated from Kent Roosevelt High School in 1977 and joined our team the same year. A truly dedicated team member, he is loved by all. Curt and is always finding opportunities to help others and encouraging everyone to be at their best. "I've been here for 40 years this month, started directly out of high school," says Curt. What has kept him around so long? His answer is simple: "KEP is a great place to work, great co-workers, and great bosses."

Thanks for your hard work, Curt, and dedication throughout the years! Read more about Curt in our [Leader Views Blog](#) or in our [Meet the Team](#) section on our website.



## PRODUCT FEATURE



## Bet you didn't know we're out back on the farm!

Did you know our products have a great reputation—even out on the farm? KEP manufactures extra strength loops that come with castration and horn removal kits. Our tubing is used in a product which is recommended by veterinarians, cattle producers and others because of its reputation as the most humane and effective bloodless castration method on the market.

Our tubing products' strength make them better than the competitors for delayed castration and horn removal for cattle, goats, lambs, sheep, and deer. Other products and methods can harm the animal, and the process can be very lengthy, but our specific latex tubing formulation is more than 3X stronger than surgical tubing. This strength allows for total blockage of the blood vessels, meaning less pain and stress on the animal. In addition to reducing stress, this process is bloodless and helps optimize growth for the animal.

Faster and more humane, our delayed castration tubing products yield less swelling, resulting in faster scrotal drop time and heal time than elastrator rings and surgical castration. Our tubing products are a top choice for the livestock industry, and their strength exceeds their great reputation with livestock.

This is just one example of our KEP expertise crosses over into many industries and uses. Our products support the medical, dental, and distribution industries and beyond. Every product begins with a challenge—and we're ready for the next one—so just [ask KEP](#).

