

Deister Machine Company Inc.

Founded: 1912

Location: 1933 East Wayne Street, Fort Wayne

As a family owned business for a century, Deister Machine Company, Inc., plays an integral part within the aggregate industry. Many of the world's largest producers prefer its high quality line of feeding, scalping and screening equipment. One of the few companies left in the industry to resist conglomerate buyouts or foreign investors, Deister Machine is rich in a history that continues into the new millennium, still guided by a family management that professes old-world traditions of workmanship, dedication to its employees, technological advancement and a solid business philosophy of putting the customer first. Each piece of equipment is designed and customized to meet specific customer needs, an aspect that is critical to the cost-efficient processing of varying materials within the aggregate industry.

Irwin F. Deister, Jr., Chairman, and E. Mark Deister, President, represent the family's third generation at the company's helm. Irwin and Mark act as co-chief executive officers, each owning 50 percent of the shares, and together forming the board of directors. Their coveted tradition of quality and customer satisfaction began with their grandfather, Emil Deister, the company's founder. Born in Germany in 1872, Emil Deister moved to the United States and settled with his parents in Woodburn, Indiana. In 1893 he began his career as a lathe operator. Eventually, Emil took up the study of ore separation. He would patent his own equipment, starting with a centrifugal separator that extracted gold from mercury amalgam, and continuing on to develop ore-separating tables.

Emil Deister set up business in 1906 as the Deister Concentrator Company. In 1912, Emil sold his interests in Deister Concentrator Company and established Deister Machine Company. Emil's son Irwin F. Deister, Sr. joined the company in 1925 and his son Emil E. Deister joined in 1926.

In 1926, upon customer request, Deister Machine Company began manufacturing vibrating screens for the separation of materials according to particle size, a process needed to meet state, federal, and industrial specifications. In 1933, Deister introduced a special screen for sizing the aggregate used in hot-mix asphalt plants. Subsequently, the company added vibrating feeders and foundry equipment, including shakeouts, compaction tables, reclaimers and oscillating conveyors.

From its first year in operation to the present, Deister Machine Company remains a proud contributor to the local, state and national economy. In 1912, the company employed 24 laborers. Currently, it supports more than 160 skilled employees. And, each year, Deister donates five percent of its income to charitable, cultural and religious organizations.

The company began manufacturing operations at 1933 East Wayne Street in Fort Wayne, its current location. The original building, a 5,500 square-foot plant, is still in active use amidst a total operation that today spans more than 315,000 square feet.

Today, Deister Machine Company, Inc. focuses entirely on its core business, providing feeding, scalping and screening equipment to the aggregate and mining industry. This equipment is used in all 50 states, Canada, and in many countries throughout Latin America, Europe and Asia.

Deister's reputation has attracted customers known as the biggest aggregate producers in the business – corporations such as Martin Marietta Materials, Vulcan Materials, Heidelberg Cement, Lafarge, and others. Many of these top producers purchase Deister equipment exclusively and in volume. For example, Deister's largest customer has purchased more than 1,100 Deister units over the years, which are operating in hundreds of locations. These customer relationships, developed over years of intense support, consultation and service have resulted in ongoing improvements in the design, engineering and customization of Deister feeding and screening equipment – never more important in an era when material specifications are tightening and producers are searching for the means to remain profitable in an increasingly competitive business environment.

For Deister Machine Company, Inc., quality is its history. Its products are designed to integrate with all components of the production system, while delivering maximum performance and productivity. In fact, some of the earlier models of Deister vibrating screens are still in operation due to their rugged construction and continued high efficiency.