

USA Is Weakened by Imports

I have been in the Western industry for more than 20 years and my family a total of 60 years. I addressed this issue in *Tack 'n Togs* in 1997, predicting many of the issues we are facing today. I said then and I still say today that a country that does not produce anything is weak. We cannot put our faith in other countries. The main problem with importing is that you have to buy such large quantities of an item to make it worthwhile that when that item does not sell the way you think it will, you are forced to dump it to make room for another new product that is on the ocean that will sell. That means polluting the economic environment with overproduction.

We as manufacturers can do ourselves and our industry a favor by continuing to manufacture at least 50 percent of our goods here and importing the other 50 percent or by importing the hardware or materials to make products from to save enough to pay a decent wage to United States workers. If we totally outsource, then who will know how to make anything in the United States? We cannot just be a nation of burger-flippers!

James Cox
Old West/Moser Leather Co.

Customers Buy on Price

I wish I could buy American-made products as cheaply as imported, but I'd rather support the USA. My customers say they prefer USA-made, but when it comes down to the almighty dollar, they buy imported because it's cheaper. Chinese bits, for example, are indistinguishable from American-made bits—except for price.

Roberta Workman
Online Retailer 

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