

MSDSOnline HELPS BUFFINGTON HOMES COMPETE WITH "THE BIG GUYS"

"With MSDSonline, we can play with the big guys. We are on their level when it comes to safety. That's a great feeling."

Nedda Brown

Vice President of Operations
Buffington Homes



Buffington Homes

- Builder of thousands of homes in the Austin, TX metro area
- About 55 full time employees
- Using the MSDSonline HQ Account since 2013

Buffington Homes is a small residential homebuilder in Austin, Texas. With 55 full time employees, they construct about 250 homes every year. Being a smaller player means that Buffington needs to keep its operation lean and streamlined, and use every advantage to remain competitive in a crowded marketplace. This extends to its management of safety and compliance.

"Smaller builders have limited resources, and limited manpower to focus on safety," explains Nedda Brown, Vice President of Operations for Buffington Homes. "For a lot of them, the view is: 'We've got to focus on building and selling homes, not things out on the fringes.' Too many small builders don't take care of safety until there's a crisis. They know that OSHA tends to focus on large commercial construction, so they feel like they can fly underneath the radar. The thing is, that's not always true."

In 2013, Buffington began looking for a cloud-based HazCom solutions provider to improve their chemical safety, and also to address the frustration they were feeling around safety data sheet management.

"At the time, managing SDSs was one of our biggest challenges," says Ms. Brown. "We were putting these big notebooks together and struggling to keep them updated. We knew we needed a formalized approach that would help everyone in our organization with their responsibilities."

Ms. Brown explains that Buffington began looking for solutions online, and eventually selected the MSDSonline HQ Account out of a field of several providers.

"We talked to three or four companies, but the ease of use with the MSDSonline HQ Account was just the best. It felt comfortable, and like something we could maintain. The updates and management

were great. We also knew it would be something our people in the field would actually use. You can have a great resource, but what if your people can't get to it easily? We knew if we didn't make it seamless, our employees would give 100 reasons why they couldn't do what we needed them to do. We wanted to eliminate all the objections we could. This system let us do that, so we took the plunge."

After adopting the HQ Account, Buffington realized multiple efficiencies in their SDS management.

"The service made it all remarkably easier," says Ms. Brown. "We found almost everything we needed within the HQ Account database. And maintenance is a snap! Most of the time, the system does the work for us, and lets us know when there are updates. It now takes minutes a week to update things, instead of hours."



In addition to saving time, Buffington found the new system indeed connected with their workers in the field.

“We’re pleased with how employees have responded,” says Ms. Brown. “Everyone says it’s simple, and they love that they can access it on their iPads. All of our trade partners — painters, plumbers, etc. — know how to access it when they come onsite. We can look up anything, anywhere. The link is right there.”

Perhaps most striking of all, Ms. Brown says that adopting the HQ Account boosted Buffington’s ability to stay competitive when going up against larger firms.

“We feel this is just one of those things that has made us more able to compete,” explains Ms. Brown. “Other companies have full-time safety directors. We don’t have the manpower for that, but we feel with the HQ Account, we can play with the big guys. We are on their level when it comes to safety. That’s a great feeling.”

Ms. Brown recommends the solution to anyone considering the costs and value of a cloud-based service.

“The cost is more than fair. Doing it yourself is still going to cost you — you’re gonna spend it one way or another, money-wise. But you hire experts because they know their business. VelocityEHS definitely does. When the value exceeds the cost, you know you’re ahead of the game.”

CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR EFFECTIVE CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT

Managing worksite chemical safety is a challenge for construction companies of all sizes. Thanks to the constantly-changing locations, evolving laws and regulations, and the flow of third party contractors, providing mandated critical safety information like safety data sheets can be a tough job for anyone. VelocityEHS can help! Our award-winning suite of seamless solutions helps construction companies by simplifying the organization of, access to and deployment of chemical information and safety materials across employees and worksites. Our cloud-based solutions make it easy to meet ever-evolving local, state, and federal compliance requirements, provide required safety data sheet information, and keep your worksite safe, compliant, and running smoothly.



Benefits of the HQ Account

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry’s leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company’s library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Improve Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile Chemical Inventory Scanner app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

Mobile Access

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free eBinder mobile app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

The HQ Account pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there’s no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

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