

# ***“Green Is In”***

## ***For Clothing Retailer maurices***

**Company:**  
**maurices** Distribution Center  
Johnston, IA

**Challenge:**  
Reduce energy loss around the  
dock leveler at the loading dock

**Solution:**  
APS Resource ENERGY  
GUARD® Retrofit Kit

**Industry:**  
Specialty Apparel Retailer

**Geography:**  
Johnston, IA

“It’s easy to use.  
Once it’s installed,  
you don’t even need  
to think about it.”

- Tom Rupp, Manager

Most consumers know **maurices** for their high standards for fashion, value and customer service. However, what they may not be aware of is the company’s commitment to environmental sustainability and safety.

What began as a small women’s fashion shop in Duluth, MN in 1931, **maurices**, is now owned and operated by Ascena Retail Group and has grown to over 800 stores in 44 states across the country. **maurices**’ Distribution Center, strategically located in Johnston, IA, is a 365,000 square foot hub for distributing apparel and accessories to the numerous stores across the country. In a given day, they will have numerous semis stocked with product at their docks.

**maurices** has increased their commitment to environmental sustainability over the past several years through a variety of initiatives. Some of these include, recycling all of their paper products used at the DC, regulated office thermostats and installing energy saving motion sensor lights in all the offices and the warehouse.

Since most of the product is moved by stand-up pallet jacks and forklifts, having a climate controlled warehouse is important to help employees stay comfortable and productive during the workday. **maurices**’ DC is unique in



that it is an air conditioned warehouse, but trying to keep the cool air inside the facility in the summer and the cold air outside in the winter was a challenge. Although they installed brush weatherseal on the sides of their dock levelers, air movement into and out of the facility was still a problem.

As a solution to this energy loss, **maurices** invested in ENERGY GUARD Retrofit Kits by APS Resource on all of their 33 docks to close off the gaps between the dock leveler and the pit wall.

ENERGY GUARD Retrofit Kits provide a superior perimeter seal along the sides and rear of the dock leveler. The innovative design closes off the gaps between the dock leveler and the concrete pit walls that are typically missed by traditional weatherseal or under-leveler seals attached to the front of the dock leveler. ENERGY GUARD prevents the mass flow of air, minimizing the transfer of heat and energy into and out of the facility.

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Designed to fit many brands of dock levelers, the Retrofit Kits installed easily on **maurices'** existing levelers and require little to no maintenance. "It's easy to use", says Tom Rupp, Manager at the Johnston DC. "Once it's installed...you don't even have to think about it".

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Not only does ENERGY GUARD help prevent energy loss, but it helps block dirt, debris and pests that may enter the facility through the leveler gaps. "It makes the department cleaner", says Rupp. "It has cut down on the dust that we have in the building".

In addition to benefitting from increased energy efficiency, lower energy costs and a cleaner facility by installing ENERGY GUARD, **maurices** was able to work with their local utility company, MidAmerican Energy, to take advantage of energy rebates. With the help of local Distributor Eric Aguiniga, from MHC Systems, **maurices** received about \$300 per dock position for installing ENERGY GUARD, making their return on investment even quicker than anticipated.

**maurices** has truly seen the benefits from their initiatives for environmental sustainability. Utilizing these benefits will ensure continued future success and lead the way as a trend setter not only in fashion, but in "Going Green".

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