



4161 EAST 7TH AVENUE • TAMPA, FL • 33605 • TELEPHONE: 813-248-2101 • FAX: 813-248-6768

For Immediate Release

April 7, 2009

For more information contact: Gordon Blickle, gblickle@gardner-gibson.com, 813-367-0282 x2203

-- PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED AT END OF RELEASE --

Gardner-Gibson Named 2009 Supplier of the Year

by Ace Hardware Corporation

Award recognizes outstanding quality service and support to largest hardware cooperative

TAMPA, FL—Gardner-Gibson has been named Supplier of the Year by Ace Hardware Corporation for outstanding service in the lumber building materials category. The award, presented to Gardner-Gibson in March 4th at Ace Hardware's 2009 Spring Convention and Exhibits, recognizes companies whose contributions have helped drive the growth of Ace and its dealers, resulting in successful fill rates and the highest level of quality service and support to its retail stores.

Gardner-Gibson provides coatings and patching materials for protecting, waterproofing and repairing roofs and asphalt driveways throughout the US and abroad. While many categories at Ace experienced overall sales decreases in 2008 due to consumer uncertainty over the challenging economy, Gardner-Gibson's strong product offering, expanded service levels and advertising, and dedication to Ace Hardware member's needs, achieved a sales increase of more that \$1.2 million year over year.

In one notable case, Gardner completed a rush order of some 50 truckloads of driveway sealer to Ace, in response to a Labor Day advertisement that far exceeded expectations for orders.

"Ace and Gardner-Gibson are longtime partners who have grown together with a great history of success. We are honored to be recognized by a retail giant of the caliber of Ace Hardware," said Tripp Hyer, VP/Sales

and Marketing for Gardner-Gibson. “Ace Hardware’s dealer network continues to be one of the best channels for launching new products and concepts into the home improvement market.”

ABOUT ACE HARDWARE CORPORATION

Ace Hardware Corporation, headquartered in Oak Brook, Illinois, is the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the industry and clear leader in the convenience segment of the home improvement marketplace in terms of wholesale and retail sales, market share and strength of the brand. Ace’s 4,600 stores in all 50 states and 60 countries generate annual retail sales of more than \$13 billion. In 2007, wholesale sales to its retailers surpassed \$3.97 billion.

Throughout its 85-year history, Ace has been known as the helpful hardware place in the neighborhood by do-it-yourself enthusiasts. For its first 50 years in business, Ace was privately held until 1976 when its transition to a retailer-owned cooperative was completed. Since then, Ace has been wholly owned by its store owner entrepreneurs.

Ace currently operates 14 distribution centers in the U.S. and one in Shanghai, China. Ace employs 4,800 corporate team members worldwide and has four regional offices in Raleigh, N.C; Atlanta, Ga.; Denver, Colo.; and Woodridge, Ill.

For more information on the company, visit www.acehardware.com.

ABOUT GARDNER-GIBSON

Gardner-Gibson has been a leading manufacturer and distributor of roof coatings, driveway sealers, caulks and adhesives for over 60 years. The customer base spans the globe. Products are marketed under the brands of APOC, Black Jack, Sta-Kool, Gardner, Shur-Stik, Fields and ATCO brands. For more information on the company, visit www.gardner-gibson.com.

Photo from Ace Vendor of the Year award presentation to Gardner-Gibson.

Below, L to R

Sean Flynn, Ace Buyer; Leslie Ray, Tripp Hyer, Jan Lange, and Mike Armagno of Gardner-Gibson, Bill Gockman, Ace Assistant Buyer; Phil Roberson of Gardner-Gibson.

