

Contact: Cathy May  
Midwest Rake Company LLC  
1605 W Center Street  
Warsaw, IN 46580  
Phone 800.815.7253  
Fax 574.267.8508



# Press Release

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## Midwest Rake Company Purchases Northstar Tools

Midwest Rake Company LLC, headquartered in Warsaw, Indiana, has purchased Northstar Tools, operating out of Temecula, California. The acquisition was effective December 22, 2008. Northstar Tools will continue all operations at its California location. The brand identity will endure.

Northstar Tools, Inc. under the leadership of John Salzbrunn, has been a reputable and respected name within the Landscape and Irrigation markets for many years. A family owned company, Northstar has a history of innovation and creativity with many of their product lines still made in this country which command a loyal following in multiple markets throughout North America.

All of us at Midwest Rake Company wish to recognize not only John Salzbrunn for his creation of Northstar Tools and his years of dedicated and exceptional leadership and customer focus; but also the "continuing" work of a very special group of employees led by Rob Hawkes, who have shared and shaped John's vision for many years. Northstar Tools is a fine brand and collection of valued products, a shining testimony to the hard work of many good folk; a brand and product portfolio we are now proud to call our own.

Midwest Rake Company LLC was founded in 1990 and is a family owned and operated long-handled tool manufacturer. The company started with one rake and has now added and developed many different tools that serve a broad and diverse group of markets including, but not limited to the following; Landscaping & Irrigation, Lawn & Garden/Nursery, Hardware & Hardscapes, Sports Turf & Surface Maintenance, Agriculture, Asphalt & Concrete Construction, Seal Coating & Waterproofing, Rental & Facility Maintenance, Government, Public Works & Utilities, Commercial/Industrial Contractor Supply, Decorative Concrete, High Performance Floor & Surface Coating, Terrazzo & High Build Surface Construction. The company has a significant and growing landscape and irrigation market position, many valued OEM and private label relationships, and approved supplier status with several strong buying groups and cooperatives across the country.

Early in 2006, Midwest Rake Company purchased Kenyon Tools, a manufacturer of quality tools serving the Landscape & Irrigation markets throughout North America. Kenyon branded tools are also valued within the lawn and garden, sports, agriculture and contractor supply markets. Midwest Rake Company has retained the Kenyon brand and strengthened the existing Kenyon portfolio of products.

For additional information, direct inquiries to Cathy May at 800-815-7253 and/or review the Midwest Rake Company websites, [www.midwestrake.com](http://www.midwestrake.com) and [www.northstartoolsinc.com](http://www.northstartoolsinc.com).