HOW BALL BUILDS BETTER CANS.

We work hard at Ball to make sure that everything we do is as smart and efficient as the team working on it.

Welcome to Ball.
AN OVERVIEW OF OUR TOUR IN 8 SIMPLE STEPS.

STEP 1: COIL TO COPPER
The uncoiler feeds the cupper, which punches out circular blanks and forms them into cups. What’s so great about a coil of aluminum? On average the aluminum we use contains 68% recycled content. Recycled content requires 95% less energy than virgin. We think that’s pretty great.

STEP 2: BODYMAKER AND TRIMMER
The bodymaker rams the cups through a series of tooling dies and irons them into cans. The trimmer ensures the open ends are all a uniform height. We’re light and getting lighter. The cans we make today use 40% less metal than in 1970, and we are rolling out a 3-year plan to go even further.

STEP 3: WASHER
The washer rinses and dries cans in preparation for coating and decoration. Our process is clean and lean. Our per can water usage is down over 6% since 2008.

STEP 4: DECORATOR AND INTERNAL COATER
Decorators print up to six colors and protect can exteriors with varnish, then a thin layer of coating is applied to protect product integrity. Want to make a splash? Try EYERIS, Ball’s patented laser technology for creating high-resolution, eye-catching cans.

STEP 5: NECKER AND FLANGER
Die neckers squeeze the can opening down and the flanger rolls back the top edge so an end can be applied after filling. At this point each can has undergone 36 different processes. In the last two years, we’ve invested in upgrades that reduce the energy required to make a can by 6%.

STEP 6: TESTING
Every finished can is checked and tested one last time before it heads to the palletizer. When it comes to testing, we think more is better. That’s why we use the Infinity system: with checks on 105 specs along the way, we ensure our cans are the highest quality in the world.

STEP 7: PALLETIZING
The palletizer places finished cans on pallets for immediate shipment or storage. The end of the line? Hardly. According to our recent customer survey, our technical service is one of the primary reasons our customers prefer Ball.

STEP 8: ENDS
End-making is an art and science unto itself. 34 steps are required to form a single end. Here’s the skinny on Ball’s CDL ends: By investing thousands of hours in development and millions of dollars in new machinery and tooling, we reduced weight by 12% and created the lightest ends in the world.

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