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### ACE HARDWARE HONORS VENDORS OF THE YEAR AT FALL CONVENTION IN DENVER

**OAK BROOK, Ill., October 19, 2011** – Ace Hardware Corporation recognized seven outstanding vendors for their superior commitment and service to the hardware cooperative, its retailers and its customers at the fall Ace Convention held Oct. 15-17 in Denver.

The Vendors of the Year represent various industries but all share their dedication to working with Ace:

- **WAYNE Water Systems**, a leading manufacturer of residential water handling systems, based in Harrison, Ohio;
- **DeWalt Power Tools**, a leading manufacturer of industrial power tools, based in Towson, Md.;
- **Kaytee**, one of the largest producers of food for pet birds, wild birds, and small animals, based in Chilton, Wis.;
- **WJ Dennis**, a prime manufacturer of complete lines of hardware products for professionals and do-it-yourselfers, based in Elgin, Ill.;
- **Arch Chemicals**, a global biocides company that provides innovative, chemistry-based and related solutions for water treatment, personal care, health and hygiene, industrial preservation and protection and wood treatment, based in Norwalk, Conn.;
- **Ace Paint**, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ace Hardware Corporation, and a manufacturer of residential and commercial paint products, including Clark+Kensington paint+primer in one.

In addition, Bethel, Conn.-based **Duracell**, the world's leading manufacturer of high-performance alkaline batteries, was recognized as the Ace Foundation/Children's Miracle Network Hospital Vendor of the Year. Duracell has sponsored the Ace Foundation for 20 years and has donated more than \$1.5 million to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

"Through their strong commitment to Ace, each of these valued vendors has contributed to the brand's 'helpfulness' promise and made a positive impact on our customers around the globe," said Ken Goodgame, general merchandise manager for Ace Hardware. "By consistently delivering superior service and quality products, our Vendors of the Year make it possible for Ace to help customers take care of their homes quickly and easy – so they can get on with their lives."

To be considered for an Ace Hardware Vendor of the Year Award, vendors must have achieved the highest levels of service and work with Ace by supporting retailers and company initiatives, upholding a strong commitment to excellence and customer service and being at the forefront of innovation and inventory management.



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### **About Ace Hardware**

For more than 85 years, Ace Hardware has been known as the helpful hardware store in thousands of communities across America. Customers depend on Ace to help them take care of their homes quickly and easily so they can get on with their lives. In 2011, Ace ranked “Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Home Improvement Stores for the Fifth Consecutive Year,” according to J.D. Power and Associates. With 4,500 locally owned and operated hardware stores, Ace is the largest hardware cooperative in the industry. Headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., Ace currently operates 14 distribution centers in the U.S. It also has distribution capabilities in Shanghai, China; Panama City, Panama; and Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Its retailers’ stores are located in all 50 states and more than 60 countries. For more information on Ace, visit [www.acehardware.com](http://www.acehardware.com).