



**Location** Grass Valley, CA  
**Product** PolyWhey® Furniture finish  
**Project** Briar Patch Food Co-op



**CASE STUDY: BriarPatch Co-op** in Grass Valley, California aims to provide a healthy lifestyle for its customers. From the products they choose to offer to their customers to the LEED® certified building it calls home, the co-op's vision of being a leader in environmental responsibility is evident in their business approach.

To that end, when new product bins were needed, co-op member Stefan Hermannsson needed to find a natural, non-toxic wood finish that would provide protection for the wood and a safe surface for the produce. Vermont Natural Coatings was able to meet their needs with low-VOC PolyWhey®, a wood finish free from formaldehyde, carcinogens and mutagens, and safe for their produce.

To learn more about Vermont Natural Coatings, visit [www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com](http://www.vermontnaturalcoatings.com).

For more about the BriarPatch visit [www.briarpatch.coop](http://www.briarpatch.coop)

*"I used PolyWhey Furniture finish for these produce bins for my local co-op, The Briar Patch in Grass Valley, CA. The bins have been in place for about 9 months and the finish still looks new! I used three coats. The bins feature adjustable sliding dividers and a sloping false bottom so the retailer can further separate varieties and nothing is lost at the bottom to rot! The building is LEED® certified and it was also important to me that these bins be closer to nature and not harmful to humans. The Vermont Natural Coatings was wonderful to use! Thank you for making such a wonderful product!"*

– Stefan Hermannsson

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