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Grainger announces closing Green Bay warehouse; some workers coming to Janesville

By [Frank Schultz](#)

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JANESVILLE— W.W. Grainger plans to lay off about 43 employees in Green Bay starting in March, with some employees transferring to Grainger's Janesville operation, according to a state Department of Workforce Development news release.

Grainger-Imperial Supplies will phase out its warehouse operation at 1176 Contract Drive in Green Bay starting in March, although Imperial will continue to be headquartered in Green Bay, and other operations on Contract Drive will continue, according to a letter from Imperial included in the release.

Imperial first notified employees of the action in April 2015 and told them they could apply for warehousing jobs at Grainger's new Janesville location, according to the letter.

“We expect to know how many employees actually intend to transfer over the next few months as actual work activities are expected to wind down on a graduated basis during that same time period,” the letter states.

Workers cannot displace or “bump” any other employee, which is a company policy, and no union represents the workers, the letter states.

“All of the employees terminating from Imperial Supplies' employ are doing so only after declining a similar warehousing role at the company's Janesville location,” the letter states.

In addition to the 43 who might leave the company, another 11 Green Bay warehouse employees have indicated they intend to transfer to Janesville, the letter states.

The Department of Workforce Development and Bay Area Workforce Development Board are offering services to affected workers.

W.W. Grainger [announced in October](#) it planned to move warehousing and distribution operations from Imperial in Green Bay to Janesville, adding about 60 jobs at Grainger's facility at 401 S. Wright Road.

Imperial Supplies is a maintenance supplier specializing in the vehicle fleet market.