

Test: Steel Comparisons

Purpose:

To compare the amount of steel used in SCHULTE, Lee/Rowan, and Closet Maid wire shelving.

Method:

Precise 3-foot sections of SCHULTE, Lee/Rowan and Closet Maid 12" Linen and 12" Shelf & Rod were cut. The coatings were stripped to bare metal. Then all like wire and rod diameters were measured with a micrometer and data recorded. Shelves were then weighed on a precision scale and data recorded. Multiple samples of each were tested for accuracy.

Results:

Linen - SCHULTE linen shelf contains 30% more steel than Closet Maid shelf, and SCHULTE has larger wire diameters in every comparable position. SCHULTE shelf has 18% more steel than Lee/Rowan shelf, and the same or larger wire and rod diameters in every comparable position.

The most noticeable and critical difference was found in the front upper rod. Closet Maid's rod is 29% smaller and Lee/Rowan's rod is 20% smaller than SCHULTE's.

Shelf & Rod - SCHULTE's Shelf & Rod overall has 11% more steel than Closet Maid and 7% more steel than Lee/Rowan. SCHULTE's wire and rod diameters are all larger than like wires in Closet Maid -- up to 13% larger in some cases. Lee/Rowan's front two rods are the same as SCHULTE, however, the back two rods and crosswires are smaller than SCHULTE's.

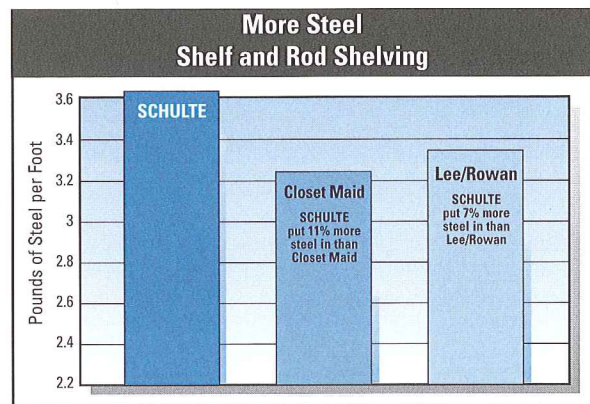
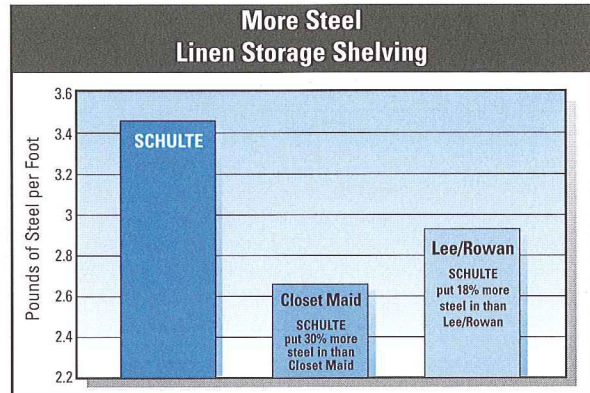
Observations/Comments:

More steel will result in a stronger shelf and less unsightly flexing on heavier loads.

Once the coatings were burned off, it was amazing to see how much smaller the Closet Maid shelf was.

One interesting note, when comparing this data to test data run several years ago, the competition's wire diameters have become smaller, whereas, SCHULTE's wire has remained the same.

Note: We were asked to measure the tensile strength of the three manufacturers. As expected, no differences were found. All three manufacturers use the same low carbon steel, which has the same tensile strength range. Therefore, using tensile strength as a comparison for how strong one manufacturer's ventilated shelf is over the other, is irrelevant. The amount of steel used is the only substantial way to vary the strength properties of shelving.



Results based on SCHULTE Product Tests

