

One of the last lampshade factories in America is a Bedford Park family business

Lampshades Inc. is one of only six or seven lampshade manufacturers still operating in the United States. Three generations into the business, the family still cuts, rolls and assembles every shade by hand at its factory just southwest of Chicago, from 2½-inch chandelier shades to 80-inch lobby pendants.



Quick facts

Founded	1979, by Bill Drabik
Owner	Michael (Mike) Lawlor, Bill's grandson, with the company since his grandfather opened the doors and chief operator since 1990
Ownership	Family owned and operated, three generations
Location	5009 W 66th St, Bedford Park, IL 60638
US industry	One of only six or seven lampshade manufacturers left in the US (company estimate)
What they make	Custom lampshades for table and floor lamps, pendants, chandeliers and wall sconces, made to order in any quantity
Sizes	2½" to 80" in diameter
Materials	Over 100 stock materials, or a customer's own fabric
Customers	Hotels, resorts and restaurant chains across the country, plus local stores and interior designers
Online	needashade.com · hotelshade.com

Story ideas

- **One of the last:** six or seven US lampshade makers remain, and one is a family shop in Bedford Park.
- **Still made by hand:** a 45-year family craft surviving in an age of imported, mass-produced lighting.
- **Fix it, don't toss it:** a new shade gives an old lamp years more life instead of a trip to the landfill.
- **Three generations:** from founder Bill Drabik to Mike Lawlor and his sons.

On camera

- Wire rings formed on an ACME machine
- Shades cut, rolled and glued by hand
- A showroom wall of shades in every shape and color
- Custom printed shades for restaurants

Photos & video

Download photos and watch the one-minute factory video at needashade.com/press

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