



# BALES

METAL SURFACE SOLUTIONS

MEDIA KIT

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## COMPANY OVERVIEW

### WHO WE ARE

Since 1978, we've been protecting your metal surfaces in ways others don't dare. We're as tough as we are precise. Incomparable finishes, tight tolerances, plus a proud legacy of integrity and innovation. Think solid with a side of rebel. It's what makes us, and you, shine. Located in Chicagoland and also in Harlingen, Texas, for clients in the southern U.S. and Maquiladora area.

### WHAT WE DO

Bales fuses science and craftsmanship in everything we do. We work with you to determine the best surface treatment to prevent or tackle everything from friction and release issues to wear, corrosion and more. No matter the industry.

At the same time, we have a reputation for innovation. We're constantly expanding our capabilities and array of proprietary products and processes:



### SURFACE COATINGS

- NIBORE™
- NICKLON™
- DIAMOND E.N.™
- Electroless Nickel
- Sulfamate Nickel
- Diamond Chrome
- Hard Chrome



### SURFACE FINISHES

- Diamond Polishing
- Glass Bead Blasting
- Aluminum Oxide Blasting
- Liquid Honing



### VALUE-ADDED SERVICES

- Micro TIG Welding
- SS Passivation
- Masking
- Stripping
- Barrel and Rack Plating
- X-ray Certification
- MIL Spec Certification
- Pick-up and Delivery
- 24/7 Availability





## LEADERSHIP BIOS

### STACEY BALES – President

630.852.4665 | [stacey@balesUSA.com](mailto:stacey@balesUSA.com)

Stacey Bales and her sister Sara were both just in their twenties when they came to be in charge of a male-dominated manufacturing business following their father's sudden passing in 2009. Their abiding goal since has been to carry on his vision, dream and passion for the company.

As President of Bales since January 2010, Stacey drives the company's long-term strategic vision and is responsible for financial management and legal matters, including patents and trademarks. She is also the company spokesperson.

Stacey has served on the board of the Technology and Manufacturing Association (TMA) and is a current board member of the Chicago Midwest chapter of the National Association for Surface Finishing (NASF) and the Chicago Surface Finishing Foundation. She is also a member of the TMA's Women in TMA Committee and its Young Leaders Committee, along with PLASTIC's Future Leaders in Plastics (FLIP), which focuses on engaging younger professionals in the manufacturing industry. On a local level, Stacey is a charter member of the Downers Grove Kiwanis Club.

Stacey can be a source for stories on:

- American manufacturing renaissance
- Women in manufacturing; Woman-owned businesses
- Family businesses & business succession planning
- Business succession
- "Green" manufacturing processes
- The surface finishing industry

### SARA MORTENSEN – Vice President

630.852.4665 | [sara@balesUSA.com](mailto:sara@balesUSA.com)

Sara literally grew up with the family business and says that by his example, her father — company co-founder Steven Bales — taught her how important it is to listen to others. Sara works on the sales side, helping customers tackle their challenges, as well as leading the company's marketing vision.

### DEAN TUFANO – General Manager

Dean is one of three managers at Bales with the distinction of "Certified Electroplater-Finisher." He came to Bales in 2009 after 22 years as a plant manager for a large polishing and plating company. Today he shares his experience at industry events, and he gets great satisfaction from helping customers determine which coating or finish would best suit their needs.

## RECOGNITION & MEDIA COVERAGE

### Products Finishing

July 1, 2017 - 40-Under-40 Class of 2017

Considering how coatings wear over time extends the options for mold surface finishes beyond hard chrome and electroless nickel. More intricate molds, corrosive materials and resins, and advances in coatings science have led to the development of multiple choices for mold surface finishes beyond hard chrome and electroless nickel. Consulting with a knowledgeable supplier is your best bet for selecting the right surface treatment for a specific application, but it's always wise to also have a basic understanding of the pros and cons of various coatings.

[Read the article >](#)

### Products Finishing

December 1, 2016 - Top Surface Finishing Innovations of 2016

Bales Metal Surface Solutions' Diamond EN electroless nickel coating with nano-sized diamond particles is designed for corrosion and wear resistance with enhanced lubricity. This coating is available for all industries and has the advantage of being suitable not only for steel tools, but also for aluminum tools.

[Read the article >](#)

### Crain's Chicago Business

November 26, 2016 - When suddenly the kids are in charge of dad's factory

Less than a week after their father died during a 2009 business trip, Stacey and Sara Bales met with the banker who had lent money to their family's Downers Grove industrial plating company. The banker demanded to know how they planned to liquidate. The business, the 20-something sisters learned, had taken out a loan to ride out the recession. Now the bank wanted its money back. "We had to fight for the company," says Stacey, now 34 and president. Sara, 32 and vice president, recalls her sister reeling off sales figures and demanding to know why, given \$3.2 million in revenue, they would ever consider selling.

[Read the article >](#)

### MoldMaking Technology

June 1, 2016 - Watching for Wear

Considering how coatings wear over time extends the options for mold surface finishes beyond hard chrome and electroless nickel. More intricate molds, corrosive materials and resins, and advances in coatings science have led to the development of multiple choices for mold surface finishes beyond hard chrome and electroless nickel. Consulting with a knowledgeable supplier is your best bet for selecting the right surface treatment for a specific application, but it's always wise to also have a basic understanding of the pros and cons of various coatings.

[Read the article >](#)

### MoldMaking Technology

May 5, 2016 - Nickel Coating Protects Steel and Aluminium

Diamond E.N. from Bales Metal Surface Solutions is an electroless nickel coating with nano-sized diamond particles that offers a balance of corrosion and wear resistance, plus lubricity. It is suitable for steel and aluminum tools, unlike standard hard chrome, which is difficult to plate onto aluminum, the company says. While standard electroless nickel offers a Taber wear index number in the 5-18 range, this coating boasts better wear protection in the 4-6 range.

[Read the article >](#)

## RECOGNITION & MEDIA COVERAGE

### MoldMaking Technology

March 29, 2016 – Young Leaders: Blazing New Trails

Stacey (Bales) was presented with the TMA's first annual Young Leaders Award, which was created to recognize employees of TMA member companies who have gone above and beyond to make a difference. Honorees demonstrate initiative, collaboration, innovation and leadership skills which made a difference within their companies as well.

[Read the article >](#)

### Plastics News

March 22, 2016 – Best Places to Work 2016

Stacey Bales and her sister, Sara Mortensen, have a unique relationship with their employees. "A lot of them have seen us in diapers," Stacey Bales said in a recent phone interview. "The majority of them have worked here 15 years or longer. Some of them grew up with us." Bales has been president of Bales Metal Surface Solutions since 2009; her sister is vice president of sales and marketing. Each owns 50 percent of the company, which ranks No. 12 in Plastics News' Best Places to Work list for 2016.

[Read the article >](#)

### Industrial Maintenance & Plant Operations

March 2016 – A Legacy of Innovation

Among manufacturers and within the industry itself, the word legacy is fairly commonplace. With family owned and operated businesses in particular, legacy extends beyond a company's day-to-day functionality — it's much more personal than that. Instead, legacy becomes about memories, family, duty and a desire to honor not just a company's history but also one's family history.

[Read the article >](#)

### MoldMaking Technology

December 1, 2015 – Plating Improves Beryllium Copper

Beryllium copper has long been used for complex moldmaking applications because of its good thermal conductivity, which ensures better control over cooling rates, leading to decreased cycle times, increased productivity and reduced manufacturing costs. However, moldmakers often overlook surface treatment as a way to further maximize mold life and performance.

[Read the article >](#)

### Plastics Machinery

August 2015 - Nickel Coating Provides Protection for Molds

Diamond E.N. Coating: Strengthened by nano-sized diamond particles, Bales' new nickel coating can be used like a mold spray to protect the core and cavity of a mold in an injection molding machine. Bales' coatings provide longer protection over time than mold sprays, and they can be applied even after machines have been in service.

[Read the article >](#)

### Manufacturing.net

June 5, 2015 - Carrying On a Legacy of Integrity and Innovation

When their father passed away suddenly in 2009, Stacey Bales and Sara Mortensen were in their twenties and left to run their father's coatings and finishing company ...

[Read the article >](#)

## RECOGNITION & MEDIA COVERAGE

### Plastics Today

May 12, 2015 - Plating Aluminum Molds is Big Business for Bales Metal Surface Solutions

Demand for aluminum molds has consistently increased over the past decade, and Harry Raimondi, Technical Services Manager for Bales Metal Surface Solutions, says the trend shows no sign of reversing. Bales Metal Surface Solutions provides metal coatings for a variety of fabricated metal components, but its big business is mold coating and plating ...

[Read the article >](#)

### MoldMaking Technology

May 6, 2015 - EN Coating Increases Wear Resistance

Bales Metal Surface Solutions will introduce Diamond E.N., a new electroless nickel coating with nano-sized diamond particles for increased wear- and friction-resistance.

[Read the article >](#)

### Daily Herald Business Ledger

March 12, 2015 - Suburban Companies Honored for Business Excellence

Twenty-three suburban-based companies and business organizations were honored for their achievements during the Daily Herald Business Ledger's 25th Annual Awards for Business Excellence. Bales President Stacey Bales is quoted regarding the importance of having employees engaged in the business' mission.

[Read the article >](#)



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