

Surfacetech

Environmental Statement



Mission Statement

Surfacetech is committed to cultivating environmentally sound practices in all aspects of its business operations and manufacturing processes while continuing to produce quality contract furniture.

Where we are now

Product

Cores

All Surfacetech cores, the largest portion of its product, meet emission requirements for California Air Regulation Board Phase I. Surfacetech cores also are considered Environmentally Preferable Products (EPP) products by the Composite Panel Association. All EPP products must contain 100 percent recycled or recovered fiber content. Also, formaldehyde emissions from unfinished EPP particle board must be less than or equal to 0.18 ppm.

Laminates and backer

All Surfacetech laminate manufacturers, Arborite, Formica, Nevamar, Pionite and WilsonArt have earned Greenguard Certification. Surfacetech's phenolic backer is a product of WilsonArt and also earned Greenguard Certification.

Veneers

All Surfacetech veneers are harvested from forests that meet the stringent environmental, social and economic standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Bases

Surfacetech's steel base suppliers confirm the recycled content of their product can vary from 30 percent to 100 percent. Surfacetech bases are powder coated. Powder coat paint emits zero Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and any overspray in the process can be collected and reused leading to almost no waste of product.

Processes

Manufacturing

Surfacetech believes the best way to reduce waste is to avoid creating it at all. To accomplish this task, Surfacetech spends time on every order calculating maximum yield from core, laminate, veneer and backer sheets. By doing this, Surfacetech creates a minimal amount of waste.

Surfacetech recognizes the effect energy use (generated from either coal or natural gas) has on the environment. As such, Surfacetech seeks to minimize energy use by sending product through workstations in bunches. By keeping machines turned on a minimal amount of time, Surfacetech reduces its carbon footprint on the world.

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Surfacetech understands that improving packaging methods is possibly the most important way to reduce its impact on the environment. Surfacetech minimizes the amount of packaging material used to safely transport its good. All cardboard boxes are made from at least 50 percent recycled material and can be recycled at the job or installation site. Surfacetech also uses recyclable plastic wrap.

Recycling

Surfacetech recycles or redirects almost 90 percent of waste (by weight) generated during the manufacturing process.

55% All paper products and cardboard are recycled through a Kansas City waste management company.

25% Particle board and saw dust waste are split between horse farms and Missouri Organic, a Kansas City company that diverts thousands of cubic yards of local green waste from landfills and illegal dumping every year by turning waste into compost.

10% Plastic, tin and aluminum cans are recycled through a Kansas City waste management company.

LEED-CI Qualifications

MR Credit 4.1 & 4.2

Recycled Content 20% (post + 1/2 pre-consumer)

Surfacetech's core material is certified by the Composite Panel Association as an Environmentally Preferable Product for 100 percent recycled or recovered fiber content. The core material comprises the largest portion of most Surfacetech lines.

MR Credit 5.1

Regional Materials 20% manufactured regionally

Schools, hospitals and offices located within 500 miles of Kansas City, Mo. benefit from this credit. The distances include Dallas, Des Moines, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Memphis, and St. Louis among many others cities.

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Where are we going (continuous improvement)

Surfacetech commits itself to use all reasonable steps to improve its environmental performance on a continual basis. Surfacetech staff will educate themselves on best practices, apply the knowledge to everyday operations and report progress regularly.

Surfacetech will spend the rest of 2010 and all of 2011 seeking either:

- MAS Green certification
- Greenguard certification
- BIFMA Level certification

Surfacetech also plans to complete the FSC custody chain by becoming certified. This will allow Surfacetech customers to utilize LEED-CI MR Credit 7 Certified Wood.

Surfacetech plans to switch to 100 percent no added urea formaldehyde (NUAF) cores by Jan. 1, 2011 at no additional cost to customers. The switch enables Surfacetech customers to utilize LEED-CI MR Credit 4.5 Low Emitting Materials.

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