

Standard Desk



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ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES AT STANDARD DESK

ENGINEERING

- **Standard Desk virtually eliminates wood wastage from “overcuts” by the use of computer-generated drawings, which select ultimate cutting patterns for our veneers.**
- **Most of our product lines allow users the choice of “building up” their workstation themselves: selecting a shell, and then the components that will fit into this shell. This allows the user to reconfigure product over time, thereby increasing product lifespan.**

MANUFACTURING

- **Standard Desk recycles all scrap wood and sawdust. They are used to heat our furnace, which maintains humidity levels in the plant. Humidity levels in a wood veneer plant are crucial, as veneer quality can be affected.**
- **A specialized firm for recycling picks up used chemicals and oils from production. Hazardous waste is stored in a designated area complying with provincial regulations and is transported and disposed of in accordance with hazardous waste regulations.**
- **All rags used in our production process are recycled.**
- **We have installed a compactor to reduce the volume of solid waste.**
- **Furniture coming out of production must go through our forced-air system. This system reduces off gassing of VOC’s in the workplace.**
- **At no point in our manufacturing process do we use any banned substances.**
- **Standard Desk works closely with the Quebec Ministry of the Environment and performs an annual waste audit at our plant.**
- **Most adhesives used in the manufacturing process are water based and chemically non-toxic.**

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- **A second dust collection system was installed in January of 2001 within our manufacturing facility to ensure minimum environmental impact and the well being of our employees.**
- **Hazardous materials used in the manufacturing process are stored in a designated area complying with provincial regulations, in order to avoid any possible contamination of the water system.**
- **In early 2000, computers were installed throughout the manufacturing floor. Not only does this make our production cycle more efficient, but also we estimate a decrease of 50% in our paper consumption.**
- **The lighting in our plant is currently being changed over to one that is extremely energy efficient.**

PRODUCT

- **Standard Desk does not use any endangered woods.**
- **Any metal components are painted using the powder coating method only, to ensure maximum coverage and minimize material waste.**
- **All metal parts contain recycled scrap steel.**
- **Although we use minimal plastic, plastic contains recycled material.**
- **Parts with a finite life, such as drawer glides, locks, etc., can be field replaced.**
- **All furniture components ship with a care and maintenance card, to extend life of product.**

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PACKAGING AND DISTRIBUTION

- **Standard Desk bulk ships large projects to reduce packaging waste. Day-to-day orders ship in packaging that reflects the particular product ordered. For instance, many items in our Accent series are shipped knocked-down, which significantly reduces packaging required. However, it is also easier to damage wood during shipping than, for example, a steel product. Because of this, Standard Desk must ensure packaging is sufficiently durable to withstand the rigours of cross-Canada shipment by truck.**
- **Recyclable materials are used in all our packaging.**

THE FUTURE AT STANDARD DESK

We are currently researching availability and viability of alternative environmentally friendly products for use in our manufacturing process. They include:

- **Non-VOC emitting adhesives for solid wood edge banding. We are currently 95% VOC –free in our manufacturing process with an aim to achieve 100%.**
- **Formaldehyde-free particleboard and 100% post-industrial waste particleboard.**
- **Veneer suppliers with certified sustainable forest certification.**

Non-VOC emitting finishes that would meet Standard Desk’s quality criteria.



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ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND INITIATIVES AT STANDARD DESK

Standard Desk is committed to carrying out its business in compliance with all applicable environmental legislation and with a view to minimizing the risk of adverse environmental effects from its operations. The Company believes that environmental awareness and proper environmental management is the responsibility of all of its employees.

ENGINEERING

- Standard Desk virtually eliminates wood wastage from “overcuts” by the use of computer generated drawings, which select ultimate cutting patterns for our veneers and particle board.
- Most of our product lines allow users the choice of “building up” their workstation themselves: selecting a shell, and then the components that will fit into this shell. This allows the user to reconfigure product over time, thereby increasing product lifespan.

MANUFACTURING

- Standard Desk recycles all scrap wood and sawdust. They are used to heat our furnace, which maintains humidity levels in the plant. Humidity levels in a wood veneer plant are crucial, as veneer quality can be affected.
- Used chemicals and oils from production are picked up by a specialized firm for recycling. Hazardous waste is stored in a designated area complying with provincial regulations and is transported and disposed of with respect to hazardous waste regulations.
- All rags used in our production process are recycled.
- We have installed a compactor to reduce the volume of solid waste.
- Furniture coming out of production must go through our forced-air system. This system reduces off-gassing of VOC’s in the workplace.
- At no point in our manufacturing process do we use any banned substances.



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND INITIATIVES AT STANDARD DESK (cont'd)

- Standard Desk works closely with the Quebec Ministry of the Environment and performs a regular (yearly) audit at our plant.
- Most adhesives used in the manufacturing process are water based and chemically non-toxic.

PRODUCTS

- Standard Desk does not use any endangered woods species.
- Any metal components are painted using the powder coating method only, to ensure maximum coverage and minimize material waste.
- All metal parts contain recycled scrap steel.
- Although we use minimal plastic, plastic contains recycled material.
- Parts with a finite life, such as drawer, glides, locks, etc, can be field replaced.
- All furniture components ship with a care and maintenance card, to extend life of product.
- Standard Desk bulk ships large projects to reduce packaging waste. Day-to-day orders ship in packaging that reflects the particular products ordered. For instance, many items in our Accent series are shipped knocked-down, which significantly reduces packaging required.
- Recyclable materials are used in all our packaging.
- A second dust collection system will be installed January 2001 within the manufacturing facility to ensure minimum environmental impact and the well being of our employees.
- Hazardous materials used in the manufacture process are stored in a designated area complying with the Provincial regulations to avoid contamination of the city sewer.