



Educational Specialty Furnishings

ESF Environmental Policy 2006/2007

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MISSION STATEMENT: Educational Specialty Furnishings, Inc. pledges to our employees, customers, and communities to protect the environment in which we live by practicing sustainable & responsible manufacturing operations. ESF regularly evaluates and enhances our manufacturing and related processes by:

- Operating our business with a commitment to comply with all local, state, & federal requirements and regulations.
- Minimizing the environmental impact of our operations by promoting prevention of pollution, environmental resource conservation, and resource recycling.
- Ongoing review of best manufacturing practices in the reduction and/or elimination of emissions, waste, and packaging materials.

SPECIFIC INITIATIVES: The following initiatives (by product group/process) represent the major steps ESF is taking to carry our environmental policy mission:

Metal Casgeoods

1. Use of powder-coated paint with no VOC's (volatile organic compounds).
2. The powder-coat paint is a low temperature curing paint, and thus, utilizes lower oven temperatures (fewer BTU's), thereby reducing energy consumption and emissions of greenhouse gases.
3. Water that is used to clean steel is collected, filtered, reused, and eventually disposed of according to government regulations. The water cooled spot welding equipment also utilizes a recirculation system that filters and reuses water to cool the welder guns.
4. Steel scrap, cardboard, and wood pallets are all collected and recycled.

Table & Laminate Casgeoods

1. Industrial grade particleboard purchased is CPA Certified as Environmentally Preferable Product.
2. Steel parts are cleaned and prepared using biodegradable detergents and finished with powder-coated paints. The process utilizes no solvents and reduces VOC's by >50% over liquid paint processes.
3. All cardboard from inbound shipments are collected and sent to a local recycler.
4. During 2006, the factory installed a grinder that has reduced wood waste volumes by 40-50% to landfills.
5. Angle iron and tubular steel both contain up to 100% recycle content.
6. Shipments of tables and laminate casegoods are typically blanket wrapped and utilize very little packaging materials, reducing material for disposal after shipment.

Outdoor Furniture

1. Use of powder-coated paint with no VOC's (volatile organic compounds) for all table undercarriages.
2. Thermoplastic top is a Polyethylene Powder dip (zero VOC emissions)- utilizing a fluid bed.
3. Steel is prepared for processing using 100% biodegradable detergents & solutions.
4. Steel material used in fabrication of framework is recycled material.
5. All scrap steel is collected and recycled to steel vendor.

Seating Products

1. Equipment cooling for the manufacturing process is accomplished by use of self-contained water tanks and a chilling system. No wastewater is produced in the process.
2. Use of non-toxic paints free of VOC's and ODS's (ozone depleting substances).
3. Purchase and use of plastic & urethane components constructed with recycled materials. In addition, rejected and scrap plastic is returned to the vendor to be "reground" and recycled into new components for different industries.
4. Water-based adhesives are used in the manufacturing process, eliminating emission during normal use of the product.
5. Dedicated used of KANBAN carts for fabric & foam from the suppliers to the factory. Excess fabric is sold to local upholstery shops and rejected/scrap foam is returned to the vendor for recycling into carpet padding.



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GENERAL INITIATIVES: All manufacturing and related operations participate in the following general practices:

Use of Post-Consumer Packaging Materials

Corrugated cardboard and other packaging materials are a minimum of 35% post-consumer material.

Use of Blanket Wrapping for Bulk Shipments

The use of blanket wrapping, bracing, and minimal foam wrap dramatically reduce post-installation waste.

Pooling of Shipments

Consumption of petroleum fuels is reduced through pooling of shipments on both the raw material and finished good logistics.

General Recycling Practices

The collection & recycling of all cardboard, steel scrap, plastic scrap, and foam produce in manufacturing or secondary processes is practiced across all product lines.

Health and Safety Training

Training on Injury, Illness, and Prevention is conducted with our employees. Direct management involvement in training includes participation in Safety Committee, accident investigation, implementation of preventative action items, and ongoing inspections of manufacturing facilities.