

## Sustainability and Recycling Program with Incentives



### COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

The Seating Shoppe is committed to using resources in a responsible manner and creating a healthy and educated workforce that cares for the health of the environment. We survey our suppliers to learn about their sustainability initiatives and, whenever possible, choose to partner with sustainable minded suppliers when making decisions on purchasing components and raw materials for products. It's the policy of The Seating Shoppe to support continuous improvement, find new avenues and aspects of our business to pursue that help promote caring for the environment.

The Seating Shoppe products reduce the overall carbon footprint created because they last so long and reduce the need for product replacements. The Seating Shoppe continually improves methods of packing and shipping, wherein products are condensed for cartoning and loads are consolidated for shipping, both geared to reduce energy consumption and a lower carbon footprint.

In our offices we continually develop methods of using less paper to accomplish our work. In addition, we maximize room temperature controls, set timers so we are neither heating or cooling our facilities when vacant and the lights are turned off in every room when not needed.

## MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING

### Aluminum

The Seating Shoppe uses recycled aluminum which consumes less energy than the production of new aluminum: Recycling aluminum requires about 80 % less energy than creating new aluminum from raw materials. This is because the process of extracting aluminum from bauxite ore (the primary source of aluminum) is energy-intensive, while recycled aluminum can be melted and reformed with much lower energy consumption.

Aluminum's lightweight properties contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions: Aluminum is significantly lighter than many other metals, and its use in chair manufacturing helps reduce the overall weight of the chair. As a result, lighter chairs require less fuel for transportation, contributing to lower carbon emissions.

### Steel

Steel tubing used in chair frames contains an average of 23% post-consumer recycled steel. This represents approximately 25% of the weight of a standard chair. The steel tube yield is very high because it's cut to size at the mill which eliminates waste caused by different lengths required to build chairs.

### Finish and Powder Materials

The Seating Shoppe does not use electroplating for chair finishes because of the environmental dangers of plating. In manufacturing, a more environmentally friendly powder coated metal frame finish, which lasts longer and is safer is used. We use a state-of-the-art, electrostatic, powder coat system that is self-contained and has zero emissions and zero environmental impact.

### Foam and Fabrics

The foam we use is a high resilience, cold cure, flex-molded foam. It is fully recyclable and will last over 10 years, contributing to the long product life. Some of our foam contains bio-based polyol material. This type of polyol improves energy efficiency and reduces the carbon and environmental footprint. Fabrics and materials we acquire from various sources are often made from recycled contents.

### Wood and Plastic

Plywood seat bases are used on most chair models. The plywood is made of recycled scraps of a renewable resource (wood). The plastic used in manufacturing any chair component is made of at least 80% recycled materials. Plastic used for packing products is made of recycled plastic.

### Cardboard and Cartons

All the cardboard and paper used by our suppliers is made from recycled paper /cardboard material.

## **MATERIALS AFTER PRODUCTION**

### **Aluminum**

All scrap aluminum is accumulated in our dumpsters and taken to a recycling facility to be re-used to create other aluminum products.

### **Steel**

All scrap steel is accumulated in our dumpsters and taken to a recycling facility to be re-used in other steel products.

### **Finish and Powder Materials**

Excess powder used in the manufacturing process is collected, recycled used on a variety of accessorial products such as chair carts and dollies.

### **Foam and Fabrics**

Scrap foam is returned to the supplier who will re-purpose it and send it to be made into various products such as carpet padding. Some scrap fabrics are sent to a recycling facility for reuse in manufacturing other fabrics or materials. Out of program fabrics and materials are either resold to fabric resellers, sold to consumers for reuse or donated.

### **Wood and Plastic**

All plastic scraps generated from production is picked up at our facility and reground by our supply for other uses. Wood scraps are also picked up and sent to a recycling facility.

### **Cardboard and Cartons**

Corrugated cardboard is flattened and regularly taken to the recycling facility. Packaging materials received from local suppliers are sent back to local suppliers to be reused after production. We reuse boxes on hand for shipping components to accounts.

## RECYCLING PROGRAM AND INCENTIVES

The The Seating Shoppe recycling program continues to expand as knowledge resources and technology advance. This program includes recycled materials purchased and used in manufacturing, as well as materials recycled after production (postproduction recycling).

The Seating Shoppe has established an end-of-use program to educate out valued accounts or end users on their options in properly recycling chairs. The packaging, frame, wood components, foam and upholstery of your chair may all be recyclable through local resources. Check with your community recycling program. In the event there is no such provider, we recommend finding a recycle center nationwide for specific items by visiting: [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com). Another option is: **Harmony Industries** who is a commercial buyer of scrap and recyclable materials. Truckload and less-than-truckload pickup is available, and they specialize in dealing with large quantities of hard-to-recycle materials. The Seating Shoppe products can be, in part, disassembled, broken down into component by category but we recommend that these providers handle that aspect of the recycling program.

Additional options include donating all products at the end of their use. Chairs can be disassembled and recycled through local processors or given to charitable organizations for reuse. Many organizations across the country will accept donations of pre-owned, gently used furniture. Be sure to speak with a representative at the organization to ensure acceptance of any donation, as some may have restrictions on donating. Visit the websites for each of the following for donating options:

- [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) for tips on donating and a search function for local charities
- United Way
- Goodwill
- Salvation Army
- Habitat for Humanity
- Rock and Wrap It Up! This non-profit organization specializes in hospitality donations and will manage the logistics of the donation.

**At The Seating Shoppe, we are committed to promoting sustainability by encouraging our customers to recycle and donate responsibly. To support these efforts, we offer the following incentives:**

- **5% Discount:** Receive a 5% discount on any new order when you provide a receipt confirming that items from a previous order have been donated to a charitable organization.
- **7% Discount:** Enjoy a 7% discount on your next order by providing proof that a complete previous order has been processed at an official recycling center.

We believe that small efforts can make a significant impact, and we are proud to reward our customers for their dedication to environmental responsibility and community support.

At The Seating Shoppe, we recognize the critical importance of maintaining our ongoing commitment to sustainability and recycling. We are dedicated to implementing responsible practices that minimize environmental impact and contribute to a greener future.