We all have a choice to make.

Continue on with business as usual, or commit to do everything we can to make our world a better place to live. The furniture that we manufacture, and the way we manufacture it, has an effect on the environment.
Spec is committed to use sustainable design and environmentally friendly materials, processes and to minimize our use of non-renewable resources.
We make this commitment to reduce our overall environmental impact.

COMMITMENT

Spec is committed to:

- Continuously improving environmental performance through:
  - the use of recycling and recycled products
  - minimizing waste and encouraging the use of bio-degradable products
  - efficiently using water, energy and transportation
  - using materials from sustainable and renewable resources
  - minimizing the use of solvents and other harmful materials
  - preserving the environment in and around our facilities and within our community
- Compliance with environmental legislation as a minimum level of performance.
- The education and training of our employees in environmental issues and the environmental effects of their activities.
- Monitoring our progress and reviewing our environmental performance on a regular basis.
- Encouraging our customers and suppliers to use products and services in an environmentally-sensitive way.

STRATEGIES

We will reduce our overall environmental footprint by 20% by the end of 2010.
To achieve this, we have committed to the following goals:

- Reduce our natural gas, water and electricity usage 25%. Completion date – 2010.
- Reduce the amount of our fabric waste by 50%. Completion date – 2009.
- Reduce the amount of our in-house upholstery foam waste so that 0% reaches land fill. Completion date - 2009.
- Ensure that the local customer has access to less wasteful shipping methods. Completion date - 2008.
- Ensure that 100% of our cardboard waste reaches a recycling centre. Completion date 2009.
- Convert all finishing processes to 100% water based products. Completion date 2010.
- BioFoam™: Ensure all foam used by Spec contains a minimum of 20% bio-based fill. Completion date 2010.
- Implement education and training for all Spec employees for recycling, and eco-friendly activities.
- Complete emission testing compliance for all products by 2010.

TESTING

Spec has partnered with BIFMA and is committed to BIFMA's Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) standards for our products. The BIFMA IAQ standards have been adopted by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) as part of the LEED rating system.

These standards are also included in the Whole Building Design Guide, Federal Green Construction Guide for specifiers. The M7.1 test method has been adopted by the States of California and Minnesota as part of their state office purchase criteria for office furniture and is also currently being considered for inclusion within the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) Low Emitting Materials requirements.

PRODUCTS

A major component of our seating and table products are made from steel which is the world's most recycled material and among the easiest materials to reprocess. Steel can be recycled to top quality new metal, with no "downgrading" from prime to lower quality materials as steel is recycled repeatedly.

Steel frames are finished in a powdercoat finish which is lead free, has zero VOC and no solvents are present. This keeps the air clean and employees safe and it also allows excess powder (i.e. over-spray) to be reclaimed and re-used.

BioFoam™ technology is used in our molded seat and back foam. BioFoam™ technology utilizes up to 20% renewable plant-based reactive materials in foam components.

Existing products can be refurbished. Chair frames and table bases can be recoated with powder coat. Seat and back covers can be removed and replaced, or the old fabric can be removed and new fabric can be used to give the seating a brand new feel, utilizing the molded components.

Eco-Friendly fabrics and laminates are available from most manufacturers.

LEAN

At Spec Furniture, we practice Lean Manufacturing principles. Through continuous improvement activities, we strive to reduce waste, use less energy, and make more efficient use of our space and materials.

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