

Conserving our resources

■ **techline.**

Respecting our environment through responsible manufacturing

A corporate philosophy

Marshall Erdman & Associates, architects and builders of medical buildings and manufacturers of Techline furniture and cabinetry, has a commitment to a cleaner, healthier environment for today's populations and those yet to come. The firm has established a comprehensive program to seek out the most environmentally safe materials in its building, production and manufacturing processes, and to develop responsible methods of disposal.

Erdman is eager to work with its vendors, clients and community to find acceptable solutions for the challenges that threaten our natural heritage of clean water, pure air and healthy soil.

We invite you to join us in these efforts.

Core values

The above statement is a core value of Marshall Erdman & Associates—a value that has helped to build our success. As a responsible corporate citizen, we play an integral role in conserving our natural resources. As a company specializing in

furniture environment solutions, we are proud to contribute by managing our natural environment as well.

In all aspects of our activities, whether it is designing, developing, buying or manufacturing, we are committed to carry out all of these activities with the environmental issue at the forefront of our concerns.

Design and development

When we design and develop our products, solid wood is used only when construction and stability dictates. The majority of Techline products are built out of engineered woods.

About engineered wood

Engineered wood is often used to replace solid wood in furniture. Techline uses engineered wood to help conserve our resources by reducing the total amount of timber that has to be harvested to meet consumer needs for wood products. In addition, engineered wood provides a stronger and

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Conserving our

■techline.

resources

higher-quality foundation for Techline's melamine (lamine) and wood veneer products.

Engineered wood is the result of decades of research and development. High grade particleboard and medium density fiberboard are designed with attributes not found in solid wood.

Engineered wood is typically made out of wood shavings, chips and sawdust that remain after a tree is milled into lumber. These materials are collected, cleaned and refined to create uniform particles or fibers. Excess moisture is removed and an adhesive resin is added. The combination of 92 percent wood and 8 percent resin, on average, is formed into long, thick mats, which are then compressed under intense heat and pressure.

Progress at each stage is closely monitored by computers, which can measure the slightest variations that even the human eye can't detect.

When Techline purchases materials and uses products made with engineered wood, we do more than serve our day-to-day needs. We invest in a process that helps protect our environment.

On average, the North American particleboard and MDF industry takes about 9 million tons of residual wood each year and turns it into products we use and enjoy every day.

Selection and purchase of raw materials

Techline buys only raw materials which are certified and guaranteed to come from controlled forestry.

Manufacturing

While the result of our latest manufacturing equipment and techniques is an attractive, high-quality and unique product design, the process ensures optimum use of all resources.

Facts and figures about the manufacturing of Techline

The Techline manufacturing facility is equipped with the latest technological and energy-efficient machinery. We have an active recycling program, and utilize non-toxic processes that leave the air, water and land around us safe for our neighbors to enjoy.

1. The basic component of Techline is particleboard. Particleboard is comprised primarily of natural wood fibers bonded together with low fuming urea formaldehyde resin. Particleboard is considered biodegradable. However, no studies have been made to determine the time frame of decomposition.

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Particleboard was selected for its uniform composition, strength, ease of machining, and the fact that it requires less wood and utilizes more of a tree.

The amount of formaldehyde that can be emitted is regulated in HUD (Housing and Urban Development) regulation 24CFR, part 3280, to 0.3 parts per million, as measured in the large scale chamber test. Techline has, on record, certificates from its particleboard suppliers testifying that their products meet these standards.

2. The finished surface of Techline is achieved by covering particleboard with plastic laminate. While the plastic laminate itself is non-degradable, the materials used in the manufacturing process (paper and melamine resin) are.
3. The materials used to finish the machined edges of Techline is PVC (polyvinyl chloride). PVC products have commonly been used for plumbing lines in all building structures and, while assertions have been made that during a fire the material emits a poisonous gas, studies show this to be far less dangerous than other gases emitted during a fire, including carbon monoxide. Techline applies this

edge trim with a gluing system that fully utilizes the glue, leaving no residue or waste products that could possibly harm the environment.

4. Since Techline is a ready-to-assemble product, it is delivered to consumers in cartons. The cartons are truly recyclable and labeled as such. Inside the carton, panels are separated with microfoam. This product is also recyclable, although at this time small collection efforts have not proven cost effective.

There are still areas where our methods and processes can be improved. Research and technology in responsible resource use is continually creating new and better ways to operate. We have an active, dedicated committee that monitors these advances and recommends applications that can assist us in meeting our environmental goals.

Conclusion

The entire Marshall Erdman & Associates team is committed to stay in harmony with nature and hope that with this piece of information communicates our basic policy. We think you should

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be informed before you invest in your next piece of functional furniture.

- We continually strive to find and utilize products that are renewable and non-toxic.
- Techline is committed to making superior products without compromising the environment.
- We recycle paper, etc. at our plant and package our product in recyclable cardboard packaging.
- Wiser use of our forest's resources are at the heart of Techline's products.
- Residual products from mills are used to form engineered wood product.
- We invest in improvements to further control odors, air emissions and waste water discharges.
- We believe our future as a company depends on the care we give our resources today.
- We build quality products of which large portions may be recycled.

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