

Environmental Product Information.

Confair folding table. Environment and product.



Confair folding table. A durable classic for better use of space and made of one-type materials.

The Confair folding table is an impressive example of how to achieve financial, social and ecological improvements due to a design that's smart, functional and high quality. The focus is on people and their potential. The fact that they can easily configure their own environments cuts facility management costs and saves expenditure for building and maintaining extra spaces. Because the Confair table can be folded up, there's space for it in any elevator, so it can be used on any story. Wilkhahn's ecological design principles are all about durability and the careful choice of materials, furniture that's easy to repair and service so that the folding tables have virtually unlimited use.

- This popular table's design has had a good track record for over 25 years and is just as contemporary today as it was at the beginning. And then there's the ingeniously easy way it's folded out without requiring much muscle power and its large wheels that have no problem negotiating bumps or raised sections in the floor.
- Most of the parts of the frame, such as the die-cast aluminum or aluminum-extruded-profile foot sections, uprights and underframes, as well as the steel synchro-adjustment mechanism spring, are made of recycled materials. They are fully recyclable, exceptionally durable, lightweight to handle

and keep to dimensions. The four lockable casters are also made of unbreakable, through-dyed polyamide, designed to last and last and can be recycled.

- The table tops consist of laminboard with solid wood edging. Natural materials such as linoleum, laminate and genuine wood veneers, are used for the surfaces. Veneered table tops are protected with water-based varnish low in solvent content. The integrated polypropylene impact-resilient profile protects the edges and prevents damage.
- All parts of the frame and table tops are screwed on so that the table tops can be taken off and reconditioned, or replaced if there are signs of wear and tear.

The Confair folding table has created brand-new opportunities for designing, furnishing and using conference spaces in a material- and energy-saving way. The product's durable, versatile and its design is ecological so it helps make a big difference to a building's carbon footprint too.

Wilkhahn

Milestones of socio-ecological development at Wilkhahn

- 2019 and 2020 Presented with the Architects' Darling Award as a winner of the cradle-to-cradle challenge
- 2018 Wilkhahn receives the B.A.U.M. environmental prize and an award from the Lower Saxony Alliance for Sustainability.
- 2013 The company is connected to the district heating grid of a biogas plant nearby
- 2012 The ON office chair is presented with the Federal Ecodesign Award
- 2009 Wilkhahn signs a framework agreement with German trade union BHI (Building and Woodworkers International) on worldwide compliance with core ILO labor standards at Wilkhahn and its suppliers via in-house controls and external monitoring by German trade union IG Metall.
- 2008 A combined heat and power plant based on renewables is commissioned.
- 2001 First company in the state of Lower Saxony with EMAS 2 European environmental standard certification.
- 2000 Publishes one of the first medium-sized business reports on sustainability
- 1997 Corporate Conscience Award from the Council on Economic Priorities, New York
- 1996 German Environmental Prize from the German Environmental Foundation
- 1992 The first ecologically designed production facilities with a photovoltaic roof and launch of the first office chair range to be developed based on the ecological design concept.
- 1989 Mission statement on ecological changes at Wilkhahn: "The administrative and management board have jointly decided to take ecological concerns seriously and to place greater emphasis on them than a quick profit".

Awards



Not all the awards apply to all variants.

Environmental Product Information.

Wilkhahn

Confair folding table. Product responsibility.

Our antidote to the throw-away society is to provide products where form, function and materials have a purpose and are long lasting. Our product responsibility concept therefore follows well-defined guiding principles.



1. Avoid waste – “the longer and better”

is the remit to our product development team. We achieve this thanks to:

- useful innovations that make life easier and more pleasant in the long term;
- durable quality of materials, surfaces and technical solutions, which guarantees quality, even years later;
- distinctive, timeless and appealing designs with the potential to become classics;

2. Reduce – “less is more”

is more than just a design principle to us, it means:

- we cut down on the materials used in order to make handling easier and to preserve resources;
- we use energy in manufacturing efficiently, for example by drawing on district heating and heat recovery in manufacturing;
- we reduce emissions, by utilizing solar power and climate-neutral energy sources (cutting CO₂).

3. Recover – “Reuse + Recycle”

In this case, the goal is to continue to use the whole product or parts of it and recycle it at the end:

- Because the products are modular, expendable parts can be exchanged and features added or retrofitted (e. g. armrest types, covers, cushions, surfaces).
- Connecting points in the product can be dismantled for easy repair.
- Where possible, we use pure materials that are marked as such, making them ideal for recycling.

4. Fairness – responsibility all along the line

At Wilkhahn, environmental and social responsibility have an equal weighting. Health and safety, training, active participation by and fair pay for employees are integral to our corporate culture. As a result, we actively encourage our suppliers and customers worldwide to improve working conditions. Which is why Wilkhahn joined Global Compact and signed an international framework agreement with the International Labor Organization (ILO) on global recognition and fostering of employee interests.

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Wilkhahn

Guiding principles.

Honest product design

We strive to develop durable products, increase their utility value and reduce waste. "Less is more" or "reduce to the max" are principles that Wilkhahn constantly reinterprets for the future. Ecological design guidelines are integral components of Wilkhahn product development.

A spirit of fairness

We focus on people. This implies a collaborative management style which sees employee representatives as co-managers who help shape the company. The workforce's participation in the company's success, the development of new styles of working with semi-autonomous groups and project work, as well as an established health-management system are expressions of Wilkhahn's social approach.

Ecological responsibility

Wilkhahn supports sustainable development. The balance we seek to strike between financial, ecological, social and cultural objectives in order to maintain independence defines Wilkhahn's corporate culture. Compliance with ecological quality criteria throughout the product life cycle is one of the ways we gauge our own success.

Responsibility from the very start – Wilkhahn's environmental product information.

The environmental impact of all Wilkhahn products throughout their whole product lives, which includes production of the feedstock, manufacture, use and disposal of the products, was assessed based on a life-cycle analysis (LCA).



Materials

Socio-ecological assessment of the production of the feedstock, the procurement process, the materials used and their characteristics.



Production

Socio-ecological assessment of the production and assembly processes by environmental-management and social-audit systems.



Product use

Socio-ecological assessment of the product utility phase regarding: Design, ergonomics, durability, customer service, availability of spare parts.



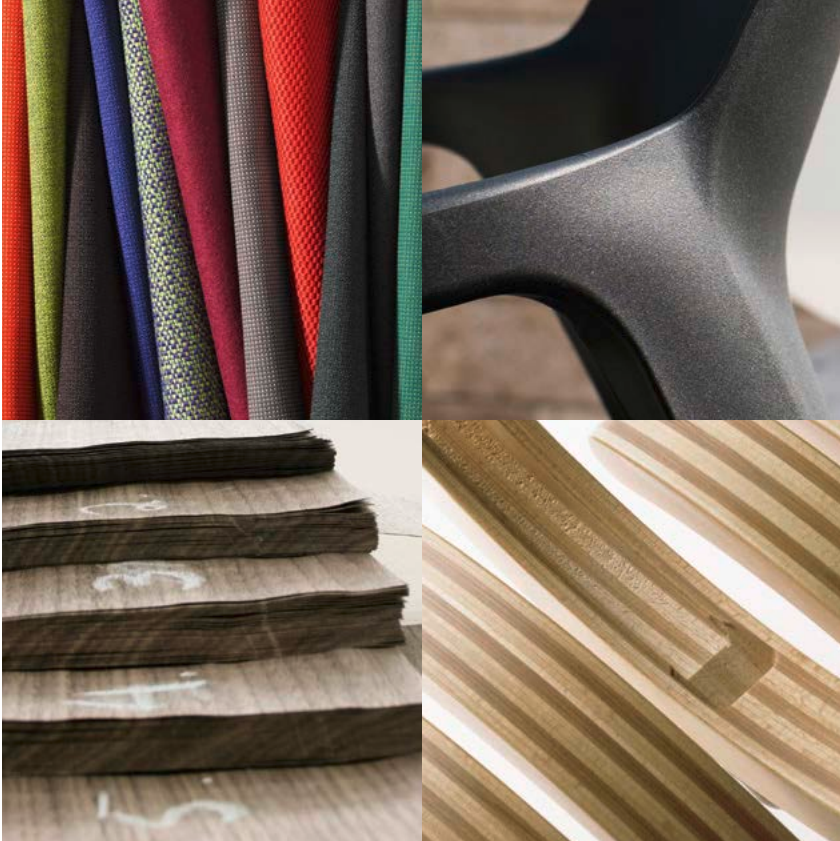
End of the product life-cycle

Socio-ecological assessment of the product after the end of its useful life: Disassembly and recycling capabilities, disposal and product take-back.

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Wilkhahn



Materials.

International product and material standards.

During all phases of a product's development, we're demanding when it comes to the characteristics of our products, the quality of the materials and components, as well as the standard of our craftsmanship. Therefore, Wilkhahn products fulfil all relevant international office-furniture standards in terms of durability, safety and ergonomics. And what's more, many Wilkhahn products have also been awarded the GS symbol which rates them as being safe and as suitable for interiors as specified by Greenguard™. The materials Wilkhahn uses such as fabrics, leather, wood, plastics or metals are primarily made by highly specialized suppliers. Our product-development department specifies the technical and aesthetic characteristics that these materials have to fulfil. Our specifications on for example strength, color-fastness, durability and other characteristics that affect the quality of our products are clearly outlined by international material standards. Rules of thumb are as follows:

- the fabrics and leather used by Wilkhahn are low on emissions and help to provide good air quality in buildings and working environments;
- wherever possible, Wilkhahn works with ecological upholstery fabrics, such as wool fleeces, cork and coconut fiber;
- all Wilkhahn polyurethane foam is free of CFCs and has no halogenated flame retardants. This helps protect the climate and is important for recycling capabilities at a later date. Nevertheless, Wilkhahn products can also fulfil special requirements as regards fire safety in public buildings, for example by applying flame-retardant upholstery fabrics. Additional flame-retardant materials are only added if required by our customers' stringent fire safety regulations.
- The powder-coated metal finishes of the table and chair frames are hard-wearing and made without any solvents or heavy metal.
- Chrome-plated metal finishes have no harmful chrome compounds (as specified in EN 71-3).

Wilkhahn attaches huge importance to the fact that its products and the associated materials, procedures and processes are responsible in social and ecological terms. Therefore, integrated audits help us check that our partners in the Wilkhahn supply chain comply with these aspects too. We check the quality of our products by inspecting incoming goods according to established criteria. Before processing, our materials are scrutinized and the finished results checked again by trained staff before forwarding to the next department.

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Production.

Integrated management system

Wilkhahn headquarters in Bad Münde (Germany) are EMAS-validated and certified to ISO 14001. Wilkhahn supports relevant certification on the part of its suppliers. Wilkhahn's main production site is certified to ISO 9001. In selecting suppliers, comprehensive and proper quality management are very important to Wilkhahn.

Water conservation, material management and sustainable energy production

Water is becoming an increasingly important resource. Wilkhahn is pulling out all the stops to minimize water consumption during production and to ensure water quality is not impaired.

By treating and recycling process water, the quantities of waste water considered hazardous have been cut by 80 percent. The Wilkhahn waste management concept includes sorting waste selectively, as well as recycling and disposing of all waste fractions resulting from the production and management departments.

All Wilkhahn production facilities ensure compliance with labor and social responsibility standards, as required by the ILO (International Labor Organization). Our partnership with suppliers is based on compliance with this agreement.

Sustainability in the supply chain.

Our environmental and social responsibility doesn't stop at the gates to our own factories.

If within its power, Wilkhahn requires and promotes fair and safe working conditions and processes that don't harm the environment. Frequent assessment and on-site visits to top suppliers create trust and sustainability in the supply chain too.

Employees as partners.

Our maxim is fairness and aspects like trust and reliability define Wilkhahn's management culture and the way it involves its own workforce. Active participation by all employees is a driving force in encouraging continual and successful improvements in the environmental sector too. Whether it's a question of avoiding hazards in the workplace, of new manufacturing technologies, or of saving materials and energy – all employees can contribute their ideas for improving Wilkhahn at any time via the company's ideas management process.

Health and safety

Wilkhahn applies a wide range of measures to ensure that workspaces in the Wilkhahn production department are safe and allow as risk-free an approach as possible. This is achieved by:

- planning safe procedures and workspaces;
- organizing and defining responsibilities;
- informing people about the risks the workspace entails and taking measures to avoid these;
- regularly inspecting working environments to maintain safety and cleanliness in all areas;
- using the health and safety committee to frequently discuss risk potentials and systematically avoid accidents.

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Usage.

Aesthetics and design

Sustainable products must be practical. The timeless aesthetics of Wilkhahn products provide added value, making them options that are set to endure. Office work today requires maximum flexibility in terms of spaces, usage concepts, processes and people. New studies show that aesthetics have a direct impact on health.

Durability and guarantee

Product design to last is our antidote to the throw-away society. Therefore, Wilkhahn products focus on providing maximum utility value, durability and protecting resources. This means top quality that can be experienced, is consistent and perfect. It delivers timeless, distinctive design that is fascinating due to its simplicity, honesty and appeal to all the senses. Pioneering innovations are included that really give our customers constant added value in terms of ergonomics and handling. The fact that our products are extremely practical, easy to disassemble and components are replaceable ensures they are resource-efficient.

Air quality and emissions of harmful substances

Wilkhahn products don't emit any concentrations of gas that are harmful to the environment or health. In the US, Wilkhahn products have GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality™ certification. GREENGUARD™ is a certification program for products low in emissions.

LEED

Wilkhahn office chairs and table ranges help companies to achieve credit points during LEED certification (U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary standard given to companies that offer a healthy environment, save water and energy and comply with stringent environmental criteria. More LEED information about our products is available on request.

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End of the product life cycle.

Product take-back and recycling

Even after the product has reached the end of its life, we still feel responsible and offer our customers extensive take-back and recycling services. We guarantee to take back all products that are no longer in use. Wilkhahn products are dismantled in the factory, all parts are selectively sorted in terms of their inherent materials and then recycled. By labelling the materials, ensuring they're non-toxic and easy to dismantle, we're already making sure today that the components in Wilkhahn products can be incorporated into local material and production cycles and be properly recycled and disposed of. As a result, energy-guzzling (and therefore ecologically unwise transportation) over long distances is avoided.

Disassembly and recycling

All Wilkhahn product components are suitable for non-destructive disassembly. In order to guarantee materials are sorted according to type, all components over 150 g in weight are labeled. No agents to protect materials, or organic halogen compounds are used that prevent recycling at a later date.

Reusable packaging for transport

Customers in over 90 countries choose Wilkhahn office furniture. For years we've only been using as much packaging to transport our products as is required to deliver them in one piece to our customers. Some 60 to 78% of Wilkhahn's cardboard packaging consists of recycled material. And Wilkhahn regularly uses blankets and other returnable packaging.

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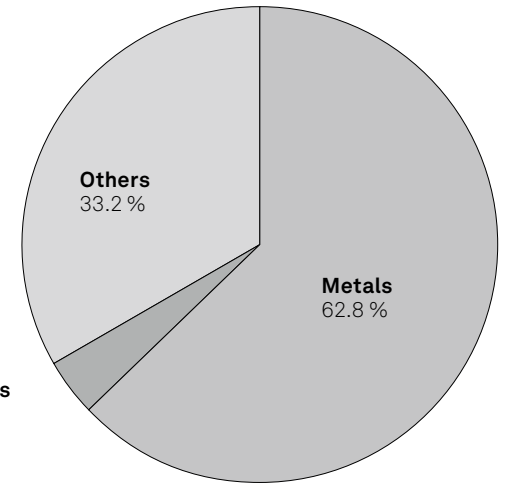


Materials.

Model's material composition Confair 440/00, 1800 x 900 mm

	[kg]	[%]
Metals	35.74	62.8
Steel	4.33	7.6
Aluminum	31.41	55.2
Zinc	0.00	0.0
Plastics	2.23	3.9
Polypropylene (PP)	0.08	0.1
Polyamide (PA)	2.13	3.7
Polyurethane (PUR/TPU)	0.02	0.0
Others	18.89	33.2
Table top (composite wood, veneer)	18.76	33.0
Total weight	56.90	100.0
Recycling proportion	35.00	62.0
Recycling capability	56.77	99.8

Plastics
3.9%



Not recyclable: Powder varnish

Materials are subject to stringent checks. As part of an ABC analysis, the materials are checked to ensure they are environmentally friendly and not harmful to health. Prohibited chemicals are not used in the product at all. All feedstock is listed in a register of hazardous substances. This helps to minimize the use or allow the substitution of any potentially harmful materials.

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Wilkhahn

Certificates product/standards



ANSI/BIFMA X5.5

Company's certificates, memberships



Mitglied der
DGNB
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Nachhaltiges Bauen
German Sustainable Building Council



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Wilkhahn and sustainability

Wilkhahn



In over 100 years of its corporate history, Wilkhahn can look back on a sustainability philosophy that has grown over decades. Aspects such as durability, social fairness, environmental responsibility and cultural orientation have been evolving as corporate principles since the 1950s. Wilkhahn today is regarded internationally as a model of excellence, not only on account of its products but also because of its modern corporate philosophy. This is because the company realized early on that sustainable design should embrace environmental aspects, improve social relationships and define the cultural role of a company. This approach to the way we do business creates a bond between us and our customers throughout the world. There is surely no more rewarding task than working together for a successful future that is worth living in.

📄 [Current sustainability report with environmental statement](#)



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For further information please contact us!

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Roof of one of the four pavilions,
which were designed by architect
Frei Otto, on the Wilkhahn site.
Photo: Klemens Ortmeier