

Neos. Environmental Product Information.

design made in germany

Wilkhahn



Guidelines.

Truthfulness in product design

We strive to develop lasting products, increase their utility value and reduce waste. "Less is more" or "reduce to the max" are the guiding principles that Wilkhahn continually translates into future contexts. Ecologically oriented design principles are a natural, integral part of product development.

Fairness in cooperation

We focus on people. This implies a cooperative style of management that recognizes employees' representatives as being co-managers who share in shaping the company. Profit-sharing for employees, the development of new forms of work with partly autonomous group and project work, as well as a firmly established health management scheme mark Wilkhahn's social orientation.

Ecological responsibility

Wilkhahn pursues the goal of sustainable development. Wilkhahn corporate culture is shaped by the balance that we strive to achieve between economic, ecological, social and cultural objectives for safeguarding the independence of the company. Adherence to environmentally relevant criteria throughout the entire product life cycle forms the basis of the way in which we judge our success.

Wilkhahn at a glance – commitment statements, certification, awards.

UN-Global Compact, ISO 9001/14001, EMAS, GREENGUARD™, LEED

Sustainability:



UN Global Compact

Processes:



ISO 9001
ISO 14001



EMAS

Product: Neos



GREENGUARD™



Complies with the requirements for the following number of credits under LEED:

LEED CI	5 – 7
LEED NC	5
LEED EB	7

Neos.
One size fits all.
Design: wiege

People differ and so does their physique: there are basket ball giants, featherweights and heavyweights ... Ideally, what everybody wants is an office chair to provide an equal level of support and optimal seated comfort.

The concept of the Neos office chair, which Wilkhahn launched in 2004, therefore consistently follows the principle of "sitting without a driving licence", that Wilkhahn has perfected as a model of excellence for over 25 years with:

- the simplest and most intuitive operation of all adjustment functions, such as seat height, backrest height, armrest position and adjustment to accommodate the user's weight,
- automatic, ergonomic adjustment of the generous, resilient back shell ensuring conformity with individual body types
- and with automatic promotion of frequent changes in posture to keep muscles, metabolism and circulation in good shape.

Two paddles and a conveniently located crank handle make it child's play for the user to adjust Neos while remaining seated. The deep recline synchro-adjustment mechanism has a special torsion compensator for users with a body weight of 40 – 120 kg. All functions are integrated into a calm, pleasant and self-explanatory form for optimum seated comfort and design appeal. This goes to show that ergonomics is invariably a question of aesthetics too.

Milestones of socio-ecological development at Wilkhahn

2009 Wilkhahn signed an international framework agreement to assure and extend exemplary social standards on a global scale. Regular internal checks and external monitoring carried out by the workers union IG Metall guarantee that Wilkhahn and its suppliers meet fundamental standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

2008 The newly erected co-generator for combining power and heat at the Bad Münder site is powered by renewable raw materials and since 2008 it has ensured virtually CO₂-neutral production

2001 First company in Lower Saxony, Germany, to be certified in accordance with the European Environmental Standard of EMAS 2

2000 Publication of the first sustainability report in the sector of medium-sized companies: Wilkhahn Added Values

1997 Corporate Conscience Award of Council on Economic Priorities, New York

1996 German Ecology Prize of the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt

1995 Development and introduction of transport packaging; changeover in table lacquering to low-solvent, water-based lacquer

1994 Preparation and implementation of a waste management concept according to the premises of recycling management

1992 Introduction of the Picto swivel chair range as the first office chair in the world with a design concept integrating consistently ecological criteria

1989 Start of "Wilkhahn Green" with a policy statement on ecology: "The Administrative Board and Management have decided jointly to take ecological matters seriously and, in case of doubt, to give priority to such over and above quick profit"

Neos. Environmental Product Information.

Durable, high resistance to wear
and repair-friendly and maintenance-friendly

The Neos office chair was designed for permanent use at workplaces with different users. High-performance materials, excellent workmanship, easy operable functions and clear design support optimal utility value – and service life. The selection of materials therefore follows the principles of weight reduction, longevity, use of one-type materials as far as possible and recyclability; the construction principle is based on repair-friendliness and simple exchange of wearing parts.

- Parts subject to a high level of wear are all made from materials that combine high precision with hardwearing stability: the star bases are optionally in die-cast aluminium or through-dyed, glass fibre-reinforced polyamide; the seat bearers and armrests are in glass fibre-reinforced polyamide, the latter with a polyurethane pad, and the mechanism case is in die-cast aluminium with covers in through-dyed polypropylene. The seat shell and the cover of the back shell are also in polypropylene, while the back shell itself and also the alternatively used backrest frame with stretch material are in glass fibre-reinforced polyamide, through-dyed. All components in aluminium and polypropylene are 100% recyclable.
- The seat cushions and the back cushions comprise covered, CFC-free polyurethane foam. Like the alternatively used backrest frame with stretch material, they are also exchangeable.
- The functions such as adjustment of the backrest height and seat depth are not only user-friendly, but also mark an optimally simple constructional solution. This allows any chair to be repaired easily in the case of signs of wear to prolong service life.

Neos marks a perfect combination of the complex demands on an office chair that it should offer a host of individually adjustable functions, that it can also be operated intuitively and, above all, that it should promote frequent changes in posture with the most optimal incorporation of ecological and economic aspects.



Materials

Socio-ecological assessment of the extraction of raw materials, the procurement process, of usage of materials as well as material properties.



Production

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



Utilization

Socio-ecological assessment of production utilization phases with the requirements: design, ergonomics, longevity, customer service, availability of spare parts.



End of product life cycle

Socio-ecological assessment of the product after the utilization phase has ended: dismountability, recycling, waste disposal and return of used products for recycling.

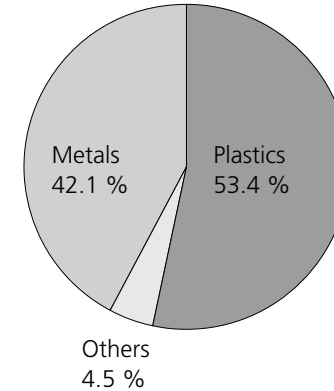


Materials.

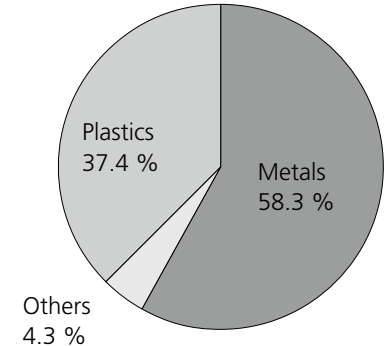
Material composition

	Swivel chair 181/71		Cantilever chair 183/3	
	kg	in %	kg	in %
Metals				
Steel	5.3	29.8	5.4	47.0
Aluminium	2.2	12.3	–	–
Zinc	–	–	1.3	11.3
Plastics				
Polypropylene (PP)	2.7	15.2	3.4	29.6
Polyurethane foam (PUR)	1.2	6.7	0.9	7.8
Nylon	5.6	31.5	–	–
Others				
Textiles/leather	0.8	4.5	0.5	4.3
Total weight	17.8	100.0	11.5	100.0
Recycling proportion	4.0	22.5	1.7	15.0
Recycling capability	15.8	88.7	10.6	92.0

Swivel chair 181/71



Cantilever chair 183/3



The total weight of the chair is 17.8 kg (swivel chair) and 11.5 kg (cantilever chair). The Neos swivel chair comprises 22.5 percent recycling material (aluminium / steel), the cantilever chair comprises 15 percent recycling material (steel / zinc).

The materials used for Neos office chairs are subject to stringent control. An ABC analysis is used to examine substances contained in these materials in terms of environmental and health compatibility. Prohibited chemicals are not used in the product at all. All manufacturing supplies are contained in a register of hazardous substances that forms a basis for further minimization or substitution in the case of potential problematic substances.

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Architectural environment



Co-generator powered by renewable raw materials



Production.

Water pollution control, waste management and sustainable production of energy

Water is becoming an increasingly important resource. Wilkhahn spares no effort to minimize water consumption in production and to ensure that water quality is not impaired. Due to the treatment of process water, the quantities of waste water requiring special supervision has been reduced by 80 per cent.

The Wilkhahn waste management concept embraces sorting waste according to one-type materials, recycling and disposal of all fractions of waste resulting from production and administration.

The newly erected co-generator for combining power and heat at the Bad Münde site is powered by renewable raw materials and from 2008 onwards it will ensure almost CO₂ neutral production

Wilkhahn production sites

Wilkhahn Neos office chairs are produced and assembled in Bad Münde (Germany), Castellon (Spain) and Sydney (Australia).

Environmental management system

All Wilkhahn sites work in conformity with a uniform environmental management system that is validated at the Bad Münde site (Germany) and certified in accordance with EMAS ISO 14001.

Process safety and quality management

Both the main Wilkhahn production site and all European sales offices are certified in accordance with ISO 9001. When selecting suppliers, Wilkhahn assigns great value to a comprehensive and viable quality management system.

ILO: All Wilkhahn production facilities guarantee compliance with labour and social standards as required by the ILO (International Labour Organization). Such compliance also forms the basis of cooperation with suppliers. The ILO is primarily concerned with the formulation and implementation of international labour and social standards, particularly core work standards that ensure social and just interpretation and application of all aspects of globalization, as well as the promotion of decent work.

Employees as partners

Top performance requires a potential-oriented corporate organization with flexible working hours, a bonus scheme, and group and project work. In turn, all employees share in corporate success in material terms. They have a comprehensive pension scheme; they are at the heart of company health promotion measures and they work in an environment that, by taking groundbreaking steps in industrial architecture, strives to achieve a synthesis of social, ecological, economic and aesthetic needs.

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Use.

Aesthetics and design

Sustainable products must be purposive. The timeless aesthetics of the Neos range result in an increase in utility value in terms of enduring use. Office work today requires maximum flexibility – in terms of interiors, utilization concepts, processes and people. The most efficient answer here is to specify a task chair that is ergonomically adjustable to every employee, and one that fits in well with any environment due its calm, understated design. Not only employees, company doctors and facility managers are delighted with Neos, but designers too. It is a satisfying solution if healthy sitting can be combined with aesthetic calibre.

Longevity and guarantee

The Neos office chair range was launched in 2004. More than 26,300 Neos chairs have been sold throughout the world since then. Neos sets standards for product design that is "sustainable" in the most optimal way. The durability of the high-quality materials used, the innovative sitting concept and the classic design guarantee usability for many decades. We give a two-year manufacturers' guarantee which thus provides a serious planning and specifying timeframe. We can vouch for this regardless of the long product service life entailed. We regard guarantees over and above such timeframes as an investment in the future. Our service in terms of "ecological prolongation of service life" includes general overhauling and maintenance of older chairs. Wilkhahn offers repair service for furniture units no longer produced for two further years following discontinuation. Being on the market for a long time, overhaul service and the high durability of Neos office chairs mark key aspects of Wilkhahn product philosophy.

Air quality and emissions of pollutants

Neos office chairs do not emit any concentrations of gas that are harmful to the environment or to health. Products from the Neos range are certified in the USA in accordance with GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality™. GREENGUARD™ is a certification programme for low emitting products.



LEED

Office chairs from the Neos range support companies by allowing credit points to be achieved in the case of potential LEED certification (U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Buildings in the USA are evaluated according to this system in terms of their ecological and social impact.

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End of product life cycle.

Return of used products and recycling

Our responsibility does not stop at the end of the utilization phase of a product as we offer our customers extensive services for taking back and recycling used products. We guarantee that used products may be returned in their entirety. The chairs are dismantled at our plant, all components are sorted according to one-type materials and – if possible – are recycled. Due to the clear marking and identification of all materials, due to their nontoxicity and due to easy dismountability, we can today ensure that the components of a Wilkhahn product are returned to both decentral and local material and production cycles and are properly recycled and, if necessary, disposed of. This serves to reduce energy-intensive (and thus ecologically questionable) return transport over long distances.

Disassembly and recycling

All components of the Neos office chair permit non-destructive disassembly. All components weighing more than 150 g bear a material identification mark to ensure that materials can be sorted according to a single type. No material protecting agents or halogen-organic combinations are used that prevent subsequent recycling.

Returnable transport packaging

Returnable transport packaging made from renewable raw materials is used for Neos office chairs that can be reused, recycled or composted.



International awards

2005: iF product design award, Hanover

2005: iF design award, China