

EFG and the environment



European Furniture Group

EFG is one of the largest developers, manufacturers and marketers of office furniture in Europe. We provide a complete range of furniture systems and products for furnishing offices and public spaces. EFG holds a leading position in Scandinavia and continues to strengthen its position in Europe.

Our production is order-based. We can deliver over 2,000 complete workstations each week with the majority manufactured on the basis of firm orders. EFG's own production units are located in Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

We have approximately 50 of our own sales outlets and around 80 dealers throughout Europe. In all, the EFG group has a turnover of approximately two billion Swedish kronor and employs 900 people.





“More and more people actively choose the most eco-friendly alternative, provided that quality and function are guaranteed. At EFG we believe it is important that you have that option.”



Marcus Westdahl, CEO,
EFG European Furniture Group AB

Climate changes caused by man are one of the greatest challenges of our age. EFG, European Furniture Group, recognises this and actively participates, on a voluntary basis, to help save our common environment.

There is a growing awareness that the products we buy have an affect upon the environment. More and more people actively choose the most eco-friendly alternative, provided that quality and function are guaranteed. At EFG we believe it is important that you have that option.

The environmental aspect is nothing new to us at EFG. We have worked on environmental issues for a long time, aiming to reduce our impact on the environment and increase awareness among our co-workers.

For even greater focus on environmental issues, we established the EFG Environment Group in 2007. The group meets several

times a year to ensure that environmental work does not lose momentum. Just the opposite in fact – the group’s first task was a comprehensive assessment project leading to new, concrete measures.

As part of these new measures, we are in the process of formulating an eco-friendly model for product development. The goal is to examine the entire process focussing on the environmental influence, from the selection of raw materials and manufacture, to usage and recycling. We also believe that investing in projects for climate compensation can play a part in overall measures to achieve climate neutrality.

There is no project deadline for our environmental work; there is no finishing line to cross. We all have to work towards easing the environmental load on our planet.

EFG's environmental policy

EFG recognises its responsibility for the future, for the environment of this generation and generations to come.

EFG will of course follow applicable legislation and regulations, but the aim is to be even better than the legal requirement, and at the forefront as regards voluntary initiatives and guidelines.

EFG will strive for efficient use of resources in production, with increased recycling of all types of materials.

EFG will promote the use of renewable raw materials.

EFG will strive to incorporate an eco-cycle perspective in all our operations.

EFG will strive to consistently reduce waste and emissions to air, land and water.

EFG will work on continuous improvements to achieve our stated environmental goals.



Our overall environmental goals

“Sustainable development seeks to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability to meet those of the future.”

The Bruntland Report 1987

This definition of sustainable development is reflected in the following EFG environmental goals:

- Least possible influence on climate
- Endeavour to use renewable raw materials
- Minimize energy consumption during manufacture and transportation
- Life cycle approach when developing new products

Detailed environmental goals are compiled by each unit within EFG.

Systems in use

EFG’s production units are certified according to ISO 9001 and ISO 14001. We work constantly with CSR, Corporate Social Responsibility, and strive to fulfil the requirements stated in the upcoming ISO 26000 standard.

ISO 14025-EPD (Environmental Product Declaration). An EPD is an independently verified declaration to describe a product’s environmental qualities in a life cycle perspective. The overall goal is to provide comprehensible, quality-assured and comparable information on the environmental performance of products.

An EPD is a summary of a product’s environmental profile. Our goal is that all product areas will be declared according to EPD.

We adhere to the regulations contained in EU legislation, REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals).

REPA (green dot). We conform to national systems for recycling packaging materials in countries where there is such a system and where an EFG subsidiary is located. For example: REPA in Sweden, PYR in Finland and Grønt Punkt in Norway.





Material and surface treatment

Veneer. EFG veneer suppliers are reputable companies who continually replant forests and thus do not compromise oxygen production or impair the ecological balance. We do not use wood from rain forests.

MFC. This material is also used as a surface layer and consists of paper with a melamine resin overlay.

Particleboard and MDF. These board materials conform to E1 quality requirements that entail low formaldehyde content, below 0.12 mg/m³.

Solid timber. Solid beech originates from Denmark and Germany. Birch is sourced from Sweden and Finland. Pine is used inside upholstered furniture.

FSC. EFG is FSC certified which means that the raw wood in our products comes from socially and environmentally responsible forest

management. There is currently a limited supply of certified wood, but we are working to increase the amount of certified lumber. All raw wood purchased for our own production purposes originates from lawful and sustainable felling and the same demands are placed on our subcontractors.

Formaldehyde. Formaldehyde is normally present in resinous adhesives as used in particleboard, plywood and laminates. We carry out regular tests on our furniture to determine the formaldehyde content. The results are well below approved levels. Measurements on finished furniture show levels of 0.06 PPM (the Swedish limit is 0.12 PPM).

Adhesive. Water-based adhesives are used on wood products. These are free from solvents, isocyanates, chlorinated hydrocarbons and aromatic hydrocarbons.



Upholstery. Standard fabrics are free from bromide and other flame retardants; the material used is flame retardant in itself.

CMHR foam in seating. EFG uses CMHR foam as stuffing in furniture. Our foam meets fire requirements and is manufactured without the use of freons.

CFC (freon). EFG does not use any freon during the manufacturing process and nor do our suppliers when manufacturing products for EFG.

Varnishes and wood stains. EFG products are surface-treated with varnish which does not contain formaldehyde, and UV-curable solvents, as well as solvent-free, water-based stain. All varnishes are free from both chlorinated and aromatic hydrocarbons, and isocyanates.

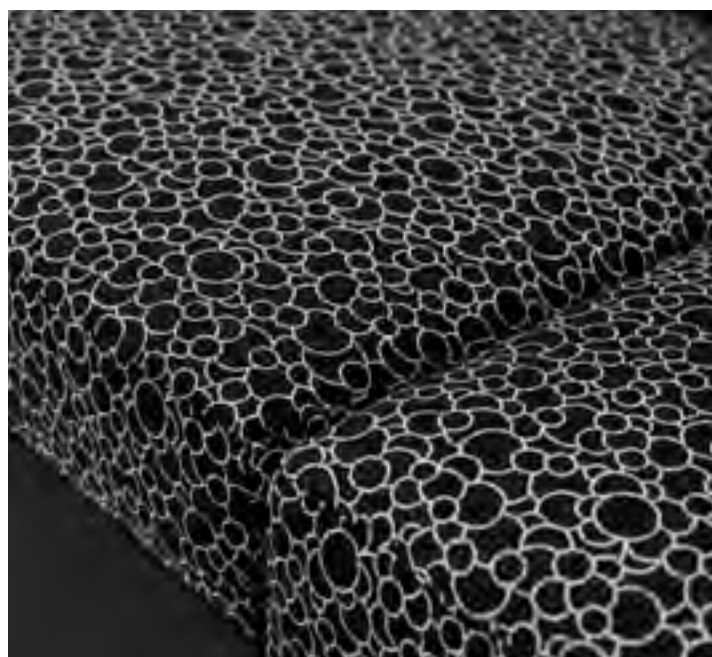
Top varnish. EFG places requirements on suppliers of lacquered products as regards the content of substances detrimental to the environment or health.

Metal. The main metals used are steel and aluminium, which may be recycled.

Metal lacquer. Powder coating is used which means there is no emission of solvents.

Chrome. This should preferably not be used, but as demand is high, we are able to supply some products with this finish. Naturally, we adhere to existing regulations and only use chrome III.

Plastics. Unfortunately, all plastics have a negative impact on the environment, although the majority can be recycled. All plastic fixtures weighing in excess of 50 g are labelled to facilitate sorting and recycling.



Routines and processes

Suppliers. Our environmental work focuses on the entire chain from product concept to the end of its life cycle. A life cycle analysis (LCA) is the starting point, detailing the content of the product, how it is made, how it is sold, how it is distributed and how components may be recycled.

Our goal is thus to continue developing and strengthening cooperation with our suppliers to ensure that they fully comprehend and fulfil our requirements. Suppliers are inspected on a regular basis to guarantee that they live up to our environmental demands.

Recycling. All paper used by EFG is environmentally friendly and can be recycled.

Packaging such as corrugated cardboard, boxes, tape, etc, are fully recyclable. Plastic materials used in packaging are also recyclable. For more info, please see the REPA information in “Systems in use.”

Sorting. We sort waste materials. Waste wood, paper and metal scrap are recycled.

Energy consumption. We strive nonstop to reduce our own energy consumption. Priority is given to production and transportation where there is most to gain. Moreover, we employ environmentally friendly alternatives to a greater degree, for example, eco cars and green electricity.

Distribution. We work continuously to reduce transport volumes and to increase volume/cubic weight on transported goods. We only employ established haulage companies who actively work to utilize the volume of each

load efficiently. We use our own containers in order to reduce the risk of damage and cut waiting times for hauliers, as well as to transport returns to production.

The majority of our deliveries are shipped directly to the customer, which entails little reloading. In Norway and the UK, we have also built an optimized distribution system with terminal warehouses.

Accredited testing. We test our furniture in our own test laboratory, accredited by Swedac. This means that we have met requirement as regards competence and gained approval to perform our own furniture tests.

Our routines are identical to those used in public test laboratories. For customers, it means that we can provide a test certificate for the relevant product stating results from tests and meeting requirements.

Guarantee and lifetime. We offer a five-year guarantee on our products against construction, material and manufacturing faults.

Besides their environmental qualities, our products also excel in design, performance, flexibility and ergonomics to ensure a long lifetime, clearly exceeding the guarantee period.

Training. We will work systematically across the board to develop and educate our co-workers. Not least to ensure that an environmental mindset permeates the entire organization.

Contacts on environmental issues. The environmental coordinator at the parent company, and managing directors in the sales companies.





The EFG export department has a network of distributors and service organisations all over the world.

In order to provide the best possible local service, please contact us at export@efg.se



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