



Setting the Table for Sustainability.

GRAND RAPIDS



CHAIR COMPANY

CHAIRS & TABLES FOR COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENTS

A close-up photograph of a green leaf, showing a dense network of veins. The central vein is the most prominent, with smaller veins branching out to form a complex, grid-like pattern across the leaf's surface. The color is a vibrant, slightly yellowish-green.

Green From the Get-Go

Seems like everybody's "going green" these days. At Grand Rapids Chair Company, we applaud those who seek to step up their environmental efforts. And we say:

Welcome to the table of sustainability - now pull up a chair and let's discuss how we can work together to make the world a better place.

We've been helping our customers and suppliers get greener since we opened our doors in 1997. Sustainability isn't just an initiative for us, it's part of our corporate DNA. And our commitment to sustainability goes much deeper than recycling scrap and offering eco-friendly products.

A Three-Legged Stool

We evaluate sustainability not just in terms of ecological performance, but also social and financial performance. This is the “triple bottom line” model of sustainability that encompasses people, planet and profit.

People. We’re committed to fair and beneficial business practices for our employees and the community and region in which we operate.

Planet. We’re pledged to minimizing our environmental impact across all areas of our business.

Profit. We seek to make an honest profit in harmony with the other two principles of People and Planet – and to inspire others by demonstrating that sustainability can be a smart financial move.



Any concept that can be demonstrated with a chair is a winner in our book.



Our Work is Never Done

We think of sustainability as a journey, not a destination. No matter how much we accomplish, there will always be room for improvement. (And we’ll always be furnishing those rooms with increasingly more sustainable tables and chairs.)

Still, we have made some noteworthy achievements in the journey thus far – and we want to share them with you so that you can make informed buying decisions. Just keep in mind that this is just a snapshot in time. Progress is ongoing here at Grand Rapids Chair Company!





Home is Where the Green is

While our competition imports more and more finished product from overseas, we continue to build tables and chairs right here in our own Grand Rapids, Michigan factory, using the best mix of both domestic and imported parts. Some people call this old-fashioned, inefficient and uneconomical. We call it sustainable.

It gives us the ability to control material, construction, and ultimately finish quality. It eliminates reliance on foreign manufacturing operations that may not be as environmentally conscientious as we are. And it promotes social sustainability – supporting our community by providing good working conditions and wages to the people who live here.



As for that “uneconomical” charge: All we can say is go ahead and compare our prices to the competition. You’ll be pleasantly surprised by how affordable sustainability can be.

A Little R&R

We design our tables and chairs for R&R (recycle and reuse). They can easily be taken apart at the end of their useful lives – and the resulting frames, wood components, steel components, aluminum, foam and upholstery can be recycled. We encourage our customers to donate our products for reuse or to disassemble and recycle them through local recyclers.

Sustainability is a Team Sport

We've assembled an in-house team of employees from all areas of the organization to analyze the environmental impact of our processes and procedures, investigate more earth-friendly methods, and raise the "green awareness" of their fellow employees, our customers and our suppliers.

This "GMA Green Team" has accomplished a number of significant tasks, including:

- Working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to perform a pollution prevention, waste reduction and energy conservation report for our manufacturing facility.



Team Effort. Color-coded containers and instructional posters throughout our factory assist employees in collecting recyclable materials.

- Documenting the significant increase in materials we've diverted away from landfills through our recycling efforts.
- Monitoring the monthly decrease in VOC emissions from our facility since the launch of our water-based finishing system in 2007.
- Redesigning our production lines to consume fewer resources – minimizing waste while boosting productivity, ergonomics and efficiency.
- Installing a solar-assisted heating unit to optimize energy performance of our wood finishing process.



Waste Not, Want Not

We work to minimize waste in every area of our operation, from the front office to the manufacturing line. Heck, we don't even waste time. Our most significant programs include:

- Recycling 100% of internally generated steel and aluminum scrap.
- Recycling 100% of shipping skids, cardboard and paper.
- Purchasing 100% recycled steel where available.
- Manufacturing steel products with at least 30% recycled content.
- Offering a full range of 100% recycled fabrics and recycled seating foam.



Trash into Treasure. We turn fabric scraps into shipping wraps, offer ReSKU™ recycled foam for seat cushions, and recycle nearly 1000 tons of steel and aluminum each year.

A Breath of Fresh Air

Breathe deep – Grand Rapids Chair is clearing the air. We paint our steel and aluminum products with a baked-on powder coat process that eliminates VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds). We've instituted a state-of-the-art water-based wood finishing system that has reduced VOC emissions by 95% over previous systems. Our table tops and upholstered seat boards are made with low-formaldehyde particleboard, minimizing VOCs. We further enhance indoor air quality by offering low-PVC vinyl and recycled textiles.





Good Wood

All trees are not created equal. Well, technically they're all created equal, but they're planted and harvested differently. We source solid wood from certified renewable forests only. These forests are independently verified by the FSC and other like organizations to be managed in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Typically, in these forests, felled trees are replaced with new growth to create a renewable resource loop.

Speaking of renewable: Did you know that bamboo grows up to two feet daily? And that in 5-6 years, it achieves comparable hardness to century-old trees? We are pleased to offer rapidly renewable bamboo as a tabletop edge option.



Work in Progress. We continue to evolve both our manufacturing methods and our material selection, which now includes Marmoleum® tabletops made from rapidly renewable ingredients.

Conserving Your Money

There are more than 300 “green seals” now available in the marketplace that companies can use to designate environmentally friendly products. Some of these seals are useful and valid, others are nothing more than marketing puffery. All are bought and paid for – and this cost is inevitably passed along to the consumer.

We commend our partners, suppliers and customers who have achieved meaningful certifications for their products and certifications. However, we've chosen not to pursue green seals on our own behalf. We prefer to keep our prices as low as possible and provide you with all the information you need to make environmentally conscientious buying decisions. It's another example of financial sustainability.

A More Hospitable Environment

We're all about making environments more pleasant, comfortable and healthy. After all, we supply beautiful, durable tables and chairs for a wide variety of spaces – arenas, banks, casinos, churches, cruise ships, health care environments, hotels, malls, offices, restaurants, schools, stadiums, theaters, universities and more.

Our sustainability efforts are just a natural extension of our business plan. We're working to make the planet more hospitable for all of us and future generations.



Family Obligations

As a family-owned business, Grand Rapids Chair Company has always focused on long-term interests over short-term rewards. Our fundamental purpose is not to maximize quarterly earnings, it's to create something of lasting value – for our customers and employees, our children and grandchildren, our community and our planet. That's why sustainability is just as important to us as building high-quality products. It's why we continue to strive for ever greater sustainability, every day.

We hope you'll join us on our journey.



LEEDing the Way.

Grand Rapids Chair Company can help you attain LEED certification for your projects. Several attributes of our

Note: The following information corresponds with the Commercial Interiors rating system, however, most of these points are also available (with small variations)

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES:

MR CREDIT 4 Recycled Content

Available Points: 1 point for 10% - 2 points for 20%

Requirement: Use materials with recycled content such that the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus ½ of the pre-consumer content constitutes at least 10% of the total value of the materials in the project.

Grand Rapids Chair Company Benefits

The following products can contribute to this credit:

- Tables with Tafipan core material that is certified 90% recycled (10% post-consumer, 80% pre-consumer) by Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) (standard)
- Chairs and barstools with Uniboard™ seat boards (standard)
- Seating with ReSKU™ foam (optional)
- Seating with recycled fabric (optional)
- Tables and chairs with recycled steel (standard)
- Tables and chairs with recycled plastic glides (standard)



MR CREDIT 5 Regional Materials

Available Points: 1 - 2 points

Requirement: 1 point for using 20% of materials and products manufactured within 500 miles.

OR

2 points for meeting requirements of option 1 AND using 10% of materials and products extracted, harvested or recovered, as well as manufactured, within 500 miles of the project.

Grand Rapids Chair Company Benefits

All Grand Rapids Chair Company products are manufactured in Grand Rapids, Michigan using domestic and imported parts. Please contact us for extraction, harvesting, and recovering information and documentation for specific products.



products fulfill requirements set forth in LEED 2009 rating systems.

in the rating systems for both New Construction and Schools.

MR CREDIT 6 Rapidly Renewable Materials

Available Points: 1 point

Requirement: Use rapidly renewable building materials or products for 5% of the total value of all building materials and products used in the project, based on cost. Renewable materials are made from plants that are typically harvested within a 10-year cycle or shorter.

Grand Rapids Chair Company Benefits

The following products can contribute to this credit:

- Products using bamboo, linoleum, strawboard, wheatboard, cork, wool, cotton, agrifiber and other rapidly renewable resources (optional)
- “Green” tabletops made with a linoleum surface material that combines rapidly renewable resources such as rosin, cork, cork flour, linseed oil and jute (optional)
- Seating with Bio-content foam (optional)



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625 CHESTNUT STREET SW GRAND RAPIDS MI 49503

616.774.0561 FAX: 616.774.0563

E-MAIL: sales@grandrapidschair.com WEB: www.grandrapidschair.com

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