

# Confair folding table. Environmental Product Information.



## 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.

Confair folding table.  
Dynamic interaction.  
Confair, design: wiege, Fritz Frenkler, Justus Kolberg;  
folding table: Andreas Störiko

The Confair range has gone down in the history of furnishing conference environments. It was the first range in the world that was consistently developed to promote innovation and change processes: with modular, mobile and coherently high-quality design, it focuses on the principles of participation and self-organization in conference work.

What is more: as a fully variable set of furniture units for variable utilization, it allows cost-effective and environmentally friendly multi-use of conference rooms, as it not only supports facility management but also provides savings in terms of additional conference space.

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

UN-Global Compact, ISO 9001/14001, EMAS, GREENGUARD™ (certification in process), LEED

Sustainability:



UN Global Compact

Processes:



ISO 9001  
ISO 14001



EMAS

Product: Confair folding table

**Certification  
in process**

GREENGUARD™



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

LEED CI	5 – 7
LEED NC	4
LEED EB	7

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub>-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"

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High-density space arrangements possible;  
using one-type materials only, easy maintenance  
& repair-friendly

The Confair folding table is an impressive example of how economic, social and ecological improvements can be achieved using an intelligent design, function and quality concept: participation focuses on people and their potential; simple, self-organized handling reduces facility management costs and saves on the construction and maintenance of any rooms that might otherwise be required in addition. And ecologically oriented Wilkhahn design principles combine long service life with careful selection of materials, as well as repair-friendly and maintenance-friendly construction. The Confair folding table is a model of excellence as:

- all components, such as foot sections, uprights and under-frames in die-cast aluminium and aluminium extruded profile and the mechanical springs in steel combine dimensional stability with high load capacity, and are 100 percent recyclable. The four lockable swivel castors in break-proof and through-dyed polyamide are designed to provide maximum service life.
- the table tops comprise renewable materials: laminboard with solid wood lipping. Natural materials such as linoleum, laminates and real wood veneers are used to finish table tops. Veneered tops are protected with low-solvent, water-based lacquer. The integral, impact-resilient profile in polypropylene protects edges and helps prevent damage.
- all frame elements and table tops are screw-fitted; this means that table tops can, for example, be disassembled and refurbished or renewed in the case of signs of wear.

The Confair range has created completely new possibilities for designing, furnishing and using conference rooms in a material-saving and energy-saving manner. In addition to the longevity and utilization qualities of the product, this helps to improve the eco-balance of a building considerably.

## Responsibility from the very start – Wilkhahn Environmental Product Information

The environmental impact of the Logon table has been evaluated for the entire product life cycle – including the extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, utilization and waste disposal – on the basis of a life cycle analysis and assessment (LCA).



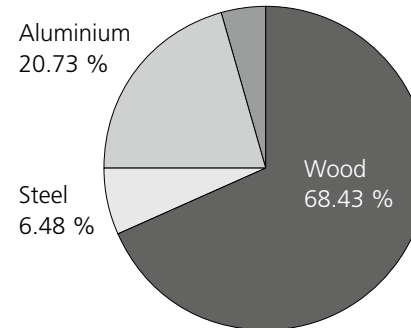
### Materials.

#### Material composition

(Size 90 cm x 260 cm · 35<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 102<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" )

	kg	in %
<b>Metals</b>		
Steel	4.23	6.48
Aluminium	13.52	20.73
Others	0.14	0.21
<b>Plastics</b>		
Polypropylene	0.57	0.87
Nylon	2.11	3.23
Others	0.04	0.06
<b>Wood</b>		
Particle board/MDF panel	40.20	61.63
Veneer	1.83	2.81
Solid wood	2.60	3.99
<b>Total weight</b>	<b>65.23</b>	<b>100</b>

Plastics 4.16 %



The total weight of the table is 65.23 kg. The materials used for Confair folding tables 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 CO<sub>2</sub> neutral production

### Wilkhahn production sites

Wilkhahn Confair folding tables 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 Confair range result in an increase in utility value in terms of enduring use. The Confair folding table is a model of excellence of the perfect combination of image building and innovative strength: great attention to the quality of details, first-class materials and unmistakable design support team spirit and external image. At the same time, the principles of participation, self-organization and interaction are promoted by means of modularity, mobility and innovative functions – and considerable space-related costs can be saved in the process.

### Longevity and guarantee

The Confair folding table was launched in 1994. Since then, more than 27,750 Confair folding tables have been sold throughout the world. The Confair folding table sets standards for product design that is “sustainable” in the most optimal way. The durability of the high-quality materials used, the innovative table 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 tables. 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 Confair folding tables mark key aspects of Wilkhahn product philosophy.

### Air quality and emissions of pollutants

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

## LEED

Confair folding tables 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 tables 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 dismantability, 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 Confair folding table 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. A total of 90 percent of components of the table can be recycled.

### Returnable transport packaging

Returnable transport packaging made from renewable raw materials is used for Confair folding tables that can be reused, recycled or composted.

#### International awards

- 1995: Design Week Award, Great Britain, 1st prize
- 1995: Best of Competition, Apex Award, Intern. Interior Design Ass. Chicago/USA
- 1996: Goed Industrieel Ontwerp /Netherlands, "Best of Category" (for the folding table)
- 1996: Industrie Forum Design, Gutes Design, "Die Besten der Branche" (The Best of the Industry), Hanover
- 1996: Design Center NRW, "Roter Punkt für hohe Designqualität" (reddot for high design quality) (reddot for high design quality), Essen
- 1996: Industrial Design Excellence Award, "Silver" in the furniture category, Industrial Designers Society of America and Business Week
- 1996: Design Center NRW, highest design quality for the folding table, "Die Besten der Besten" (The Best of the Best), Essen
- 1997: Aluminium Award, Netherlands, Aluminium Centrum
- 1998: Compasso d'oro, Milano (for the folding table)
- 2000: Innovationspreis Architektur und Office (Innovation Prize for Architecture and Office) (Innovation Prize for Architecture and Office), AIT, Orgatec
- 2004: Jubilee Award "10 aus 50" (10 out of 50), award-winning office furniture systems, md International magazine of design