

Palette. Environmental Product Information.

design made in germany

Wilkhahn



Palette.
Simplicity – multiplicity.
Design: Karlheinz Rubner

Like virtually no other table range, Palette stands for the modern archetype of a task and conference table. Yet, Palette is more than a prestigious table with exact design that has an extremely high-quality appearance due to reduction to essentials: only one swift movement is necessary to release the table leg and move it along to accept the next table top. This allows tables to be configured, extended and downsized to meet changing requirements in terms of methods or the number of participants.

Maximum standardization allows variable space utilization and supports facility management: just one rectangular table top form and one type of legs offer virtually limitless versatile applications – ranging from a single or a double workplace to a conference configuration of any size. Any table tops and legs not required can be kept compactly on standby.

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™ (certification in process), LEED

Sustainability:



UN Global Compact

Processes:



ISO 9001
ISO 14001



EMAS

Product: Palette

**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 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”

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Future-proof variability, longevity and value-preserving materials

Understated design conveys a quality that seems to be extremely long-lasting, while providing virtually limitless utilization. Every table, every module is always ready for new challenges and tasks. Hardwearing and durable materials only are used to ensure that the quality stands up to what the design promises:

- The table tops comprise bend-resistant laminboard with a core formed by vertically bonded solid wood strips; the hardwearing lipping also comprises renewable, solid wood. It allows a table construction without a frame or an under-frame.
- 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 table legs in extruded aluminium profile and the locking mechanism in steel are made from recycled materials which can all be returned to the material cycle after a long service life. Palette is extremely repair-friendly due to the exclusive use of mechanical and easily releasable connections.

In the market, Palette has been regarded as a classic among variable table ranges for some 17 years now. Should table tops can show undesirable signs of wear after a long service life, they can be refurbished or exchanged by Wilkhahn.

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).

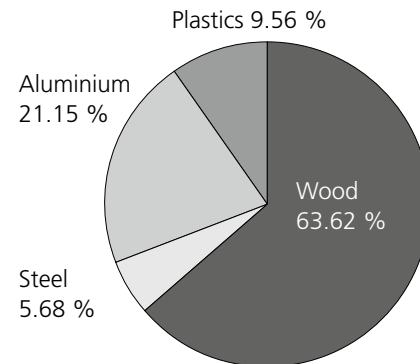


Materials.

Material composition

(Size 90 cm x 180 cm · 35³/₈" x 70⁷/₈")

	kg	in %
Metals		
Steel	2.90	5.68
Aluminium	10.80	21.15
Plastics		
Polypropylene	0.02	0.04
Nylon	1.72	3.37
Others	3.14	6.15
Wood		
Particle board/MDF panel	30.53	59.78
Veneer	1.42	2.78
Others	0.54	1.06
Total weight	51.07	100



The total weight of the table is 51.07 kg. The materials used for Palette 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 Münden site is powered by renewable raw materials and from 2008 onwards it will ensure almost CO₂ neutral production

Wilkhahn production sites

Wilkhahn Palette tables are produced and assembled in Bad Münden (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 Münden 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 Palette range result in an increase in utility value in terms of enduring use. Like virtually no other table range, Palette marks the modern archetype of a task and conference table with perfect design that has a particularly high-quality appearance due to reduction to essentials.

Longevity and guarantee

The Palette range was launched in 1990. Since then, more than 26,370 Palette tables have been sold throughout the world. The Palette 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 Palette tables mark key aspects of Wilkhahn product philosophy.

Air quality and emissions of pollutants

Palette does not emit any concentrations of gas that are harmful to the environment or to health. Products from the Palette 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

Palette 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 dismounted 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 Palette 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 87 percent of components of the table can be recycled.

Returnable transport packaging

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



International awards

- 1991: Industrieforum Design, "Die Besten der Branche" (The Best of the Industry), Hanover
- 1991: Design Zentrum Nordrhein-Westfalen, Essen, "Die Besten der Branche" (The Best of the Industry)
- 1991: Schweizer Design Preis, "Produkte 91" (Swiss Design Prize, "Products 91"), Solothurn
- 1991: M.I.T.I.-Award, "G-Mark", Japan
- 1994: APEX-Award in USA
- 1995: Award of Excellence in Design & Manufacture of Desking, Australia