

Environmental policy

Our manufacture is committed to environmentally friendly and energy-efficient production and business activity. We understand nature and human society as part of a global ecosystem that must unconditionally be kept in a balance.

Our environmental policy manifests itself in a universal commitment to environmental responsibility. In order to secure the sustainability of natural conditions of life, we aim to produce in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

We had ourselves certified in accordance with ISO Standard 14001 in 1996, 2007 and 2010. This represents a logical continuation of the principles of ecological action that we have practiced for years. With this management certification for environmentally sound production, we commit ourselves to keeping records of raw materials and energy consumption as well as environmental impact, and to make continuous improvements in this area.



Ecodesign

We aim to do our level best to minimize the environmental impact of every product made in our manufacture. The life stages of an item of upholstered furniture include manufacture of the materials, production of the piece of furniture, the phase of usage and disposal. Ecodesign generally focuses on a product's durability and the materials used. Unlike household appliances, with upholstered furniture, the greatest environmental impacts occur not during the usage phase but during production of initial materials such as leather and foam. This is why we apply an ecodesign checklist in product development in which we analyze and continuously improve the environmental compatibility of the parts we produce in-house, of bought-in parts and production processes. Our de Sede leather, for instance, is dyed only in aqueous systems that are free of solvents.

We have strict rules in place for leather as a raw material. We only process cowhides that arise as by-products of meat production. With us, no cattle are slaughtered for their hides. We process only the hides of happy cattle that are kept in species-appropriate conditions and receive special feed tailored to them and stem from an area in which, above all, they are treated well. The cattle chiefly come from Switzerland, southern Germany or Scandinavia. The hides are finished exclusively in European tanneries run in compliance with precise and strict environmental regulations.

For ecology-optimized cutting of the hides, we have introduced an automatic and manual leather-cutting machine. This way, depending on the model and leather quality involved, we can significantly reduce leather waste. In the automatic leather-cutting machine, templates are placed on the leather skin with the aid of innovative software that minimizes waste around the blemish-free areas of the hide. This leather-cutting method is mainly used for coated leather types. With the manual leather-cutting machine, which is used for natural leather types, the templates are optimally manually placed over blemish-free areas of the hide with the aid of a laser projector before the hides are then automatically cut.

All of the movable parts built into our models are screwed in place and easily interchangeable. Wearing parts, such as casters, gas pressure springs or the like, are easy to replace; we also see to it that the materials we use are recyclable.

We have expanded and updated our own software to generate a materials balance sheet (bill of materials with life cycle assessment) for every model we produce. The diagram illustrates the quantities of the most important materials used in the production of a typical de Sede model. Note: There are no figures on specific energy consumption.



Based on this knowledge, we apply the following principles:

- We make an effort to apply the best production technologies available.
- Our use of resources is circumspect and sparing.
- We establish and implement our environmental standards beyond what is required by law.
- We strive for perfection by sharing information and experience on a cross-company basis.
- We proactively pursue continual improvement in our environmental performance in all that we do.
- To protect our employees, our customers and the environment, we continuously reduce the hazards and risks involved in the manufacture, sale, use, recovery and disposal of our products.
- We place our suppliers under an obligation to comply with our required safety, health and environmental standards.
- We take seriously our company's responsibilities for its social setting, toward our business partners and particularly toward our employees.
- We inform our customers about the safe use, recovery and disposal of our furniture. We are constantly working to broaden what we know about the ways in which our products and production methods, and their environmental aspects, can impact people and the environment.
- We are committed to maintaining an environmental management system and undergo ongoing monitoring by independent experts.
- We determine the organizational tasks, responsibilities and powers in the areas of infrastructure, technology, finance and human resources and see to it that our employees develop an awareness for the environment.

Environmental policy / Umweltpolitik

General / Allgemein

+ Industrial medicine
Arbeitsmedizin

+ Avoidance of waste
Abfallvermeidung

+ Durability
Langlebigkeit

+ Quality
Qualität

Avoided / Vermeiden

- PVC*

- CMHR foams*
CHMR-Schäume*

- Lacquers and paints
containing solvents
Lösungsmittelhaltige Lacke

- PCP*

Not used / Nicht einsetzen

- Endangered wood
species
bedrohte Holzarten

* PVC: polyvinyl chloride / Polyvinylchlorid
* CMHR: combustion modified high resilient / flammwidrige, hochelastische Schäume
* PCP: pentachlorophenol / Pentachlorphenol