



Jonti-Craft, Inc. Environmental Statement



Materials

When choosing material suppliers for our wood furniture line, Jonti-Craft only selects those with proper forestry management plans. Our suppliers have forest re-growth and harvest plans that ensure they are utilizing the environment in a low impact manner. Jonti-Craft's Sproutz® line was founded on our commitment to deliver safe, high-quality products for children in busy classrooms and daycare centers in conjunction with our desire to produce air-quality friendly furniture made from green materials.

KYDZTuff® Finish

Jonti-Craft was the first early childhood furniture manufacturer in the United States to use ultra-violet (UV) finish (KYDZTuff® Finish). Unlike other finishes, including commonly used water base finish (usually 24% solids), KYDZTuff® Finish is over 99% solids, thus, reducing the amount of solvents that are released into the atmosphere through the drying process. Another advantage to Jonti-Craft's KYDZTuff® Finish is that we use a roller coater to apply the finish to all flat surfaces. Unlike other application processes (spraying) and curing processes, there is virtually no loss of materials with our UV finish. Although Jonti-Craft generates less than 1% of waste finish product, we do still recycle this waste; it is sent to a chemical reclaimer and reformulated. A portion of this reformulated product is returned to Jonti-Craft to reuse in the cleaning process and the remaining is used to make concrete for highways.

Wood Scrap

Nearly all of Jonti-Craft's wood waste materials are recycled or used for agricultural use. Jonti-Craft carefully optimizes its use of wood materials to ensure we keep our scrap at a minimum. But, when lumber scraps are generated, they are collected and used to make pallets for outbound shipment of products. Smaller scraps are sent to a local hammer mill, which grinds them down into saw dust to be provided to poultry farmers.

Box Making Efficiency

Jonti-Craft was among the first furniture manufacturers in the United States to purchase a boxing making machine. The boxing machine allows for full-utilization of cardboard and reduces scrap and damages. This allows Jonti-Craft to create boxes for packaging 'on demand', rather than having to purchase pre-made boxes. Thus, Jonti-Craft only makes the boxes needed, so there is no overstock or unnecessary disposal of excess, unused cardboard boxes. In addition, all extra cardboard is baled and sent to a cardboard recycler who uses the material to make new boxes.

Paper Reduction

Jonti-Craft is a strong supporter of using paperless technology whenever possible. Today, approximately 80 percent of all our orders and invoices are received and transmitted electronically. Our factory is supported by stationary and hand held computers rather than a manufacturing process that requires excessive amounts of paper. Additionally, Jonti-Craft customers can obtain freight quotes for our products and view order history, order status, and invoices on Jonti-Craft's website. We promote new products, special sale items, and other pertinent company information through e-mails rather than the use of printed media. This year, we reduced the amount of paper used in production of our main catalog by 17 percent.

Sproutz®

Jonti-Craft was the first early learning furniture company to deliver a line of children's products made from rapidly renewable resources. Since its introduction in 2002, Sproutz® has evolved to meet the needs of green conscious consumers. In an effort to deliver a more cost effective and traditional wood-looking early learning furniture line, the Sproutz® line has been revised and using a medium density fiberboard panel manufactured from recycled wood fiber. With the use of a formaldehyde free resin (lab tested to less than 0.05 ppm) Sproutz® products have the emissions of solid wood which allows these products to meet the most stringent formaldehyde emission standards in the world (CHPS 01350). Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) certificates are available for "88% Pre-consumer Recycled Wood Fiber" and for "Made with No Added Formaldehyde". By including Sproutz® furniture, you'll be contributing to improved air quality in the classroom.

Sproutz® products may contribute to the following LEED™ Credits:

- **Indoor Environmental Quality**
 - **Credit 4.4 – Low-Emitting Materials**, Composite Wood & Agrifiber Products
- **Material and Resources**
 - **Credit 4.1 - Recycled Content**, 10% (post-consumer + ½ pre-consumer)
 - **Credit 4.2 - Recycled Content**, 20% (post-consumer + ½ pre-consumer)
 - **Credit 5.1 - Regional Materials**, 10% Extracted, Processed & Manufactured Regionally
 - **Credit 5.2 - Regional Materials**, 20% Extracted, Processed & Manufactured Regionally

Sproutz® is constructed from materials that meets Material Specifications for VOC emissions section 01350 for Collaboration for High Performance Schools (CHPS). A copy of the VOC Emission Test Results is available upon request, please contact Tom Franta at tfranta@jonti-craft.com or (800) 543-4149.

Sproutz® products are available in over 45 of the most popular early learning furniture designs ranging from storage to coat lockers, from book storage to dramatic play items, and from computer stations to furniture for toddlers.



0324JC341 – Sproutz® Toddler Single Mobile Storage - Caramel
0392JC341 – Sproutz® Low Single Mobile Storage - Caramel
2691JC341 – Sproutz® Super-Sized Mobile Single Storage - Caramel



40801JC348 – Sproutz® Kinder-Kitchen Set - Red



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Frequently Asked Questions on Sustainability for Schools

What is the USGBC?

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is a community of more than 6,900 organizations from every sector of the building industry united by a common purpose: to transform the building marketplace to sustainability. The USGBC has developed the LEED® program to help promote sustainability.

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1498&>

What is the LEED® Green Building Rating System™

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. USGBC's members, representing every sector of the building industry, developed and continue to refine LEED®. LEED® addresses all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core and shell, operations and maintenance, schools, healthcare, etc.

<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1499&>

Why is LEED® important for schools?

Schools play a crucial role of providing healthy, safe environments for children to learn. Because children breathe more air in proportion to their bodies than adults, environments for children must be carefully designed to minimize indoor pollutant exposure. As learning environments, schools can demonstrate the importance of efficiency, conservation, and good indoor air quality.

<http://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=2078>

What is CHPS?

The mission of the Collaborative of High Performance Schools (CHPS) is to facilitate the design of high performance schools: environments that are not only energy efficient, but also healthy, comfortable, well lit, and containing the amenities needed for a quality education. CHPS helps facilitate and inspire change in our educational system. The goals of CHPS are to:

- Increase student performance with better-designed and healthier facilities.
- Raise awareness of the impact and advantages of high performance school design.
- Provide design professionals with better tools to facilitate effective design.
- Increase school energy and resource efficiency.
- Reduce peak electric loads.

<http://www.chps.net/overview/index.htm>

What are the benefits of high performance design in schools?

High performance design can impact a district from the classroom to the boardroom. The primary benefits include higher test scores, increased average daily attendance, lower operation costs, improved teacher satisfaction and retention, decreased liability, and reduced environmental impacts. A growing number of studies are confirming the relationship between a school's physical condition, especially its lighting and indoor air quality, and student performance. The message confirms what teachers, students, and parents have known anecdotally for years: a better facility—one with great acoustics, lighting, indoor air quality and other high performance features—will deliver better student outcomes. For more information read the National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities report on how school facilities affect academic outcome (<http://www.edfacilities.org/pubs/outcomes.pdf>). <http://www.chps.net/overview/overviewBenefits.htm>

What does this all mean to me?

Sustainability in schools is an attention getting and fast growing market. Furniture such as Sproutz® sometimes qualifies for additional funding due to its environmental qualities. By learning more about sustainability in education, not only can you help promote a better learning environment for our children, but you will also find additional sales opportunities.