



May-Jun 2009

Stay Tuned:

Jul-Aug Features:
 Green Textiles and
 Sustainable AV.

Volume 2, Issue 3



NYU Green Room

Certification Criteria:

Climate Cool



Cradle to Cradle



Fair Trade



Energy Star



SCS



Green Guard



LEED



Green Organizations

- Environmental Preferable Purchasing www.epa.gov/epp/
- USGBC- U.S. Green Building Council- www.usgbc.org
- Forest Stewardship Council- www.fsc.org
- NYU-Sustainability- www.nyu.edu/sustainability

Used but not Abused

By Giselle Graham -NYU- Purchasing Services

According to The Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) International the current slowdown of the economy has provided a grim outlook for the office furniture industry. "Office furniture consumption during the 4th quarter of 2008 dropped 7.3% compared to the same period in 2007...this is more than double previous expectations". (BIFMA first quarter 2009 Forecast News Release)

In this emerging environmental marketplace, NYU's Purchasing Services saw a real opportunity to not only help save the University money but be sustainable at the same time. We have officially teamed up with **Consolidated Business Resources** to offer the university Pre-Owned furniture items via I-Buy this month.

You can now get a varied selection of furniture items ranging from task chairs, stack chairs, lounge chairs and files in just a few clicks.

In as little as 5-7 days you can have your office, classroom or lounge space furnished with top quality pre-owned furniture at an affordable price.

CBR is led by three highly qualified and dedicated individuals. Tom Zotts, Bob Richardson and Anthony Rocco have almost 80 years of furniture distribution and installation experience between them. They actively purchase pre-owned products on a weekly basis and only stocks top-quality inventory. Some benefits of buying used furniture are:

-Just consider how much energy that is currently being used to make brand new furniture. By remanufacturing used furniture you will

be conserving energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preserving land and in turn contribute to saving our environment.

-Life Cycle- By extending the useful life for the furniture item you'll be postponing its need for waste disposal

-Remanufacturing can contribute to USGBC LEED points. New construction projects can earn one point toward LEED certification. for using "salvaged, refurbished, or reused materials, products, and furnishings for at least 5% of building materials." An increase to 10% earns the project two points towards certification

-Cost Savings- buying recycled furniture can save you thousands of dollars on projects by either blending old with new, using as is or completely refurbishing the furniture to achieve your desired aesthetics.



Knoll- Brno Chair- \$337.50



Steelcase-Max Stacker- \$22.50



Steelcase- High Back Criterion- \$202.50

Who's in the Hot Seat?

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

Have you been wondering what CAL133 is? It is a full-scale fire test for furniture manufactured for use in public assembly areas. In the case of the University, this would mean areas such as the student lounges, auditoriums, cafeteria, classrooms, dormitories and labs. Any rooms containing (10) or more articles of upholstered seating furniture would require this test.

Although automatic sprinkler systems are recognized as a very effective method of improving fire safety, in New York City, you must still comply with CAL133 in sprinklered buildings.

An exact mockup composite that duplicates all the components in the finished piece of seating will be required for testing at an additional charge. It is very important that enough time is given during the specification process for these tests to be conducted and to ensure it meets the lead time for your projects.

The CAL133 test measures such factors as rate of heat generation, carbon monox-

ide generation, smoke opacity, and weight loss caused by combustion. It is important to note that no single component can claim to pass. It is not possible to have a CAL133 approved fabric, foam or plastic.

EPA's design for the Environment Program (DfE) has partnered up with such stakeholders as the American Fire Safety Council (AFSC), the American Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and GreenBlue to help identify environmentally sound solutions for meeting current and future furniture fire safety requirements.

One of their goals is to inform the industry of up-to-date information on flame retardant used in foam and fabric. For many years Pentabromodiphenyl ether (pentaBDE) had been the primary flame retardant in the manufacture of low density, flexible polyurethane foam for furniture. However, it was discovered that its toxicity had negative effects

in human and environmental organisms. The EPA's DfE program was developed in direct response to a demand for more eco-friendly alternatives. They are working to locate non-toxic or lower toxicity materials that have a safe lifecycle when re-used.

There are certain grades of fabric that can aid in the piece of furniture's ability to meet the CAL133 criteria. Olefin and vinyls would require an interliner or fire blocker layer between the cover fabric and cushion to pass. One of the best fire barriers that is used is Dupont's Kevlar. Threads made of Kevlar retains much of its strength at high temperatures. There are certain materials that are inherently fire retardant such as leather, wool, certain polyesters such as Trevira and Avora fibers. Cellulosic fiber contents such as cotton, rayon and linen tends to present a smoldering ignition hazard and should not be considered for use in public assemblies.



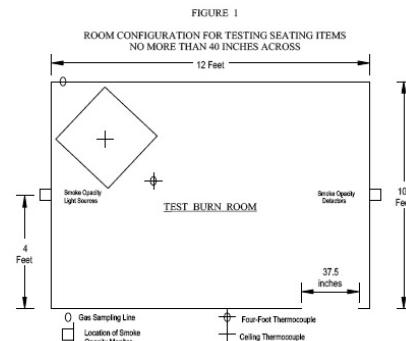
Flames can ignite from anywhere between 4 minutes to 13 minute based on composites.

“Architects have a vital role as advocates of sustainable solutions.”

— Norman Foster

NOTICE:

THIS ARTICLE IS MANUFACTURED FOR USE IN PUBLIC OCCUPANCIES AND MEETS THE FLAMMABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS TECHNICAL BULLETIN 133. CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED NEAR OPEN FLAME OR WITH BURNING CIGARETTES.

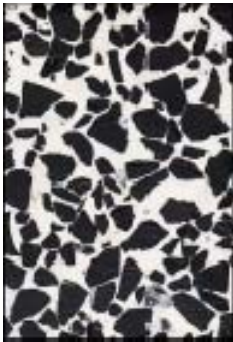


Required Label to be affixed to the underside of the furniture item.

Test Burn Room— Image Courtesy of Burngard

Sustainably Stoned

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services



Nurazzo- Crystal Collection



Ice Stone

No fears...yet. Stone may be a depleting natural resource but we have the power to slow the process down so that some of our favorites will be around for future design projects here at the university.

Based on the design concept and required aesthetics, there will always be a need for authentic stone. However, it does not hurt to consider stone substitutes as a sustainable option.

PaperStone is one of the “greenest” architectural surfaces on the market today. It can be used on countertops, wall cladding, conference tables and even toilet partitions. It is available in three series, “Original” which is made from 100% post-consumer recycled cardboard and “Certified” which is made from 100% post consumer standard office paper and “Virgin” made from Virgin fiber. It also consists of a non-petroleum-based resin made from cashew nut shells.



Coverings ETC- EcoTerr Line

www.paperstoneproducts.com

IceStone provides durable surfaces made of 100% recycled glass that is mixed with cement. It can be used for table tops, floors or wall-coverings and is available in a wide assortment of colors. Due to its high recycled content, VOC-free ingredients and Cradle to Cradle Gold Certification, this product can be ideal for projects seeking LEED certification. www.icestone.biz

In the market for Terrazzo flooring? Meet **Nurazzo**. It is available in two collections. The Marble line is created using natural marble from local quarries and the crystal collection is created using recycled glass from local recycling programs, providing you with 70% post-consumer recycled products. You have the option to create your own tiles online. www.nurazzo.com

UrbanSlabs fabricates like granite, is lighter in weight and has a unique look. It

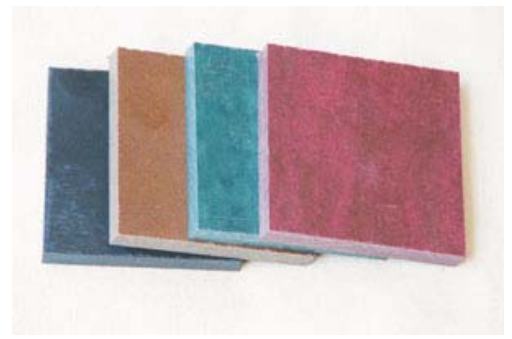
consists of 100% recycled glass (85% post consumer, 15% post industrial) mixed with a proprietary cement matrix. Its recycled glass countertops are a great alternative to concrete. It is also resistant to fading, scratches and stains.

www.urbanslabs.com

CoveringsETC is an excellent source for bio-architectural slabs and tiles. They offer new eco-friendly and engineered stone surface materials to the construction and design communities. Their EcoTerr Line is an eco-friendly terrazzo made up of recycled content, comes in both tiles and slabs and it is ideal for both indoor and outdoor use. www.coveringsetc.com



Urban Slabs



PaperStone Products