

ENVIRONMENTAL | THINK



Steelcase

## Think about the environment.

**Created for the earth as well as for the user, the Think™ chair was conceived, developed and produced for maximum sustainability. Recyclable, recycled and responsible, Think is the chair with a brain and a conscience.**

## Think things through.

**Every stage of the Think chair's life has been considered.**

No other chair has so carefully considered its impact on the earth, from birth to rebirth. Denmark's Institute for Product Development conducted a complete Life Cycle Assessment, evaluating all Think material extraction, production processes, transportation, use and end of life. MBDC (McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry) protocols guided the choice of key materials, so that Think includes those deemed completely safe for the environment — nothing banned, restricted or harmful.

## Life cycle assessment

### End of life

Think is up to 99% recyclable by weight. The chair can be easily dissembled in about 5 minutes, using ordinary hand tools. Parts weighing more than 50g are clearly labeled for recycling.

### Use

Designed for long life, Think is easy to repair, reconfigure and upgrade. Seat and back cushions, arms, headrest and lumbar adjustments can be easily added, changed or replaced.

### Transport

To reduce shipping, chairs are manufactured close to customers in Europe and North America, and beginning 2005 in Asia. Because the Think chair is lightweight, it requires less energy for shipping. Think is available to ship ready-to-assemble, which uses less packaging and allows more chairs per shipment.

### Materials

To reduce overall material usage, Think weighs only 32 pounds — a fraction of the weight of comparable chairs. It contains up to 44% recycled materials, and absolutely no PVCs, CFCs, solvents, benzene, chrome, lead or mercury.

### Production

Think was designed to be made with minimal waste, energy consumption and environmental impact. Powder-coat painting is VOC-free and free of heavy metals. No gluing processes are used in assembly.



## Environmental effects evaluated for Life Cycle Assessment.



### Global warming

is the rising of global temperature due to emissions of greenhouse gas. A one-way flight from New York to Hawaii does more damage than the entire life cycle of 7,200 Think chairs.



### Acidification

is the damage to trees and rivers, as well as accelerated degradation metals, of limestone and concrete. Watching one TV for a year contributes more pollutants to acid rain than the life cycle of a Think chair.



### Eutrophication

is the loss of plants and animals in aquatic ecosystems due to oxygen depletion following blooms of algae, stimulated by high nutrient concentrations. The life cycle of 30 Think chairs does less damage than fertilizing a one-acre lawn just once.



### Photochemical smog

is a type of air pollution caused by emitting volatile organic components. Your car releases as much photochemical smog in five hours of driving as Think does in its entire life cycle.



### Abiotic resource depletion

is the depletion of non-renewable resources such as oil, coal and metals. Depletion is minimized in the Think chair by using materials made from recycled content when possible, and minimizes the number of parts and types of materials needed.



### Waste

is the bulk waste and hazardous waste created during the entire life cycle of a product. The average American generates twice as much waste in one week as the life cycle of Think.



### Toxic emissions

are substances which cause harm to the natural environment or human health. The majority of the substances in this category for the Think chair life cycle is sulphur oxide, the result of combustion of fossil fuels.



# 41%

**41% of the Think chair (by weight) is made from recycled materials.**

### **LEED.**

Think helps companies work toward LEED® (the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in many ways. The Think chair can contribute toward LEED credits because it contains a high percentage of recycled material and it is a low emitting product. Additionally its ergonomic qualities, production processes and ease of disassembly may contribute towards LEED credits for employee health and innovation. (Steelcase will work with Think customers individually on their LEED applications.)

### **Think Global.**

- NF Environnement Label, France
- Sarrebourg France ISO 14001 Certified
- Think carries the Scientific Certification Systems Indoor Advantage™ Gold certification for indoor air quality in North America.

# Think beyond.

**When it's finally time for new chairs, Think goes easily into its next life.**

The Steelcase Environmental Partnership will help you responsibly take your chair into the next phase of its life cycle — be it resale or refurbish, donation to charity, or recycling. Or you can easily recycle the Think chair yourself. Think separates with simple hand tools into well-labeled components.

# 99%

**The Think chair is 99% recyclable by weight. Disassembly takes just five minutes with ordinary tools.**



## Think about what's next.



### Acetal

This hard plastic in Think chairs will be used to make bearings, gears, rollers, pen cases and plumbing fittings.



### Aluminum

Your Think chair could be part of your future car, kitchen appliance, power tool — even your golf clubs.



### Nylon

Someday you could brush your hair with material recycled from the Think chair. Nylon components also could become glides or casters for other chairs.



### PolyEthylene Terephthalate (PET)

In the future, you could soak in a bathtub recycled from Think, or it could be part of your fishing pole or air conditioning filter.



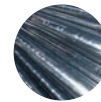
### Polyurethane

Your feet will thank Think for the padding under your future carpet.



### Polypropylene

Your new coffee maker, washing machine or car fender, perhaps.



### Steel

We can't begin to list all the places steel is used, but your Think chair could very well be there.



### Zinc

Your door handle, lock or sink faucet may someday be made from recycled Think chairs. Or perhaps the rust-proofing on your future car.

Call 800.333.9939 or visit [www.steelcase.com](http://www.steelcase.com)

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