

#### **VS America Commitment to Environ-Friendly Practices.**

Our pledge to you, our customers, is to practice the highest environmental friendly standards from raw material procurement through the production cycle to recycling of scrap to the delivery process and after sales support.

#### **Overall Corporate Policy.**

- We manufacture the highest quality furniture following sound and responsible environmental practices with minimum impact on our natural resources.
- We use natural resources as raw materials with minimum impact on the environment, use only safe, environmentally-sound manufacturing practices, use safe and responsible disposal practices in the production cycle and recycle raw material wood, steel, plastic and other scrap and end products back into the production process.
- All our employees and suppliers adhere to our strict environmental policies.

### **Commitment to Environ-Friendly Practices. Part 1.**

#### **Protection of Natural Resources.**

- Only high quality beechwood from sustained reforested woodlands is used; we do not use wood from tropical forests.
- Responsible use of natural resources and protection of the environment from harmful substances is a foremost priority in our production cycle.
- Surplus wood, sawdust, wood shavings, polypropylene, tubular steel and other by-products are recycled back into the production cycle and used as a primary raw material in, for example, the manufacturing of table tops for school desks.
- Sound environmental practices allow us to minimize demand on natural resources such as water and air.
- Rain water in our manufacturing facilities is collected and recycled into the production process.
- Regenerative energy, such as such of solar panels on the roofs of our manufacturing plants, maximizes the use of natural energy.
- Our furniture is shipped using reusable packaging materials such as blankets and other such material like cardboard.
- Steel tubes used in manufacturing are extensively recycled and re-used in the production process.

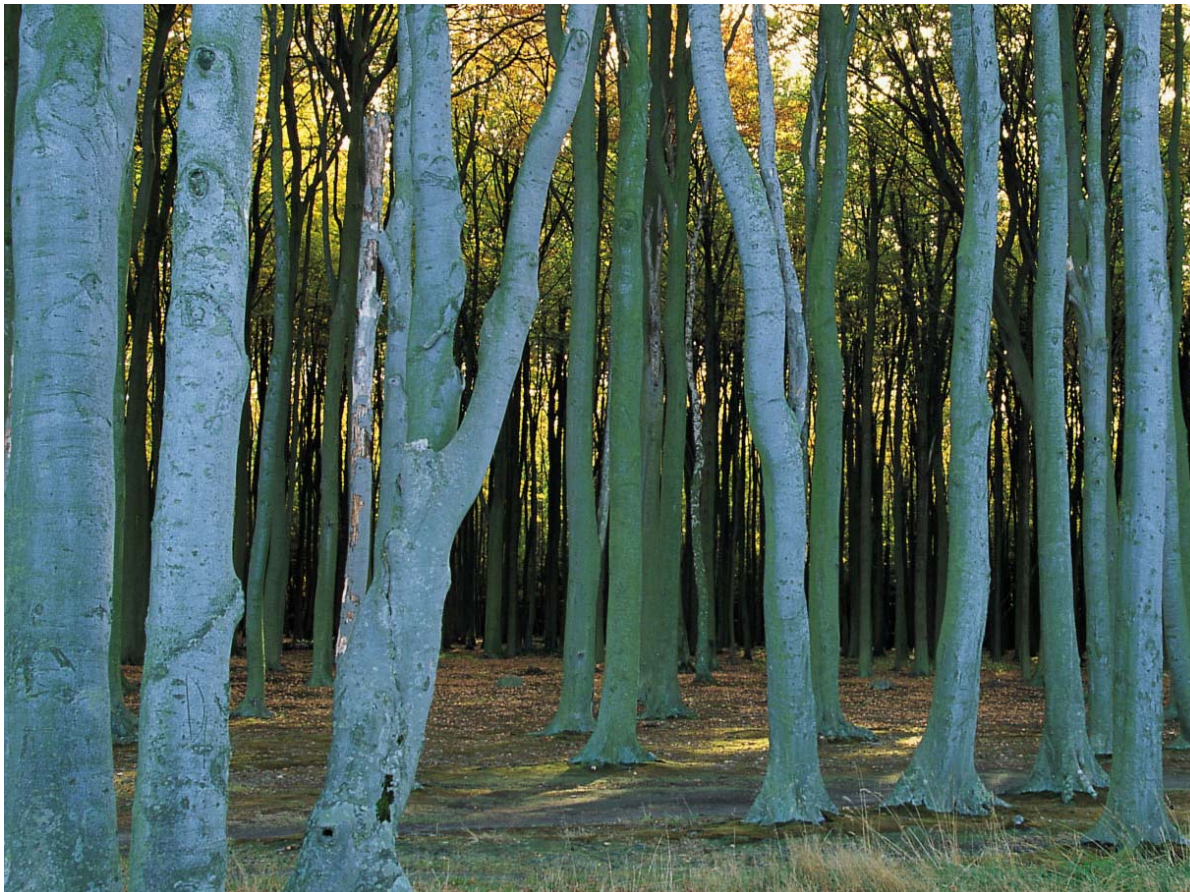


#### **Manufacturing.**

- Our manufacturing process is dictated by environmental criteria from the choice of beech wood from reforested woodlands to use of environmentally protective processes in finishing wood and steel parts and ends to the use of reusable packing materials and recycling concepts for products at the end of their service life.
- This is possible since VS controls the entire production process and defines strict standards for each phase of manufacturing.
- Our production line is continuously monitored to assure minimum emission of harmful substances and raw material waste
- We maximize energy efficiency, optimize the use of raw materials and promote the use of regenerative energies.
- To assure long life, we use solid beech wood, chipboard and tubular steel in production of our high quality furniture.
- Solid beechwood design of furniture follows strict environ-friendly principles.
- Only water-based paint and varnish is used on our wood to enhance the quality and texture of the beechwood.
- High strength steel tubes with close tolerances and high resistance to wear are used for long life of furniture components.

#### **Commitment to Environ-Friendly Practices. Part 2.**

- Steel tube surface is finished with an epoxy-resin covered coating, a solvent-free powder coating technology that is environmentally friendly.
- Student chairs are fitted with an air cushioned plastic seat shell made on textured non-slip polypropylene, a robust scratch resistant material.
- Scrap from polypropylene parts are shredded and converted to a granulated material and recycled back into the manufacturing process to make new student seat shells.
- Surplus wood, sawdust and wood shavings are recycled back into the production process for new desktops using a patented process. With this process, wood scrap is compressed at high temperature and pressurized and glued back together into robust, particular resistant shape without adding synthetic resin, for example.
- Old furniture, whose life has expired, is returned to and dismantled in our in-house recycling center for back into the production cycle.



#### **Industry Standards.**

- Our environmentally friendly production procedures meet the stringent requirements of various independent testing organizations.
- We have met and adapted stringent ISO 14001 worldwide standards into our internal management environmental policy.
- We are committed to staying well within the bounds of statutory acceptable industry standards.
- We will work with independent authorized testing services to guarantee compliance with environmental standards.
- To adhere to ISO 14001 standards, we record and detail any negative influence on the environment and immediately adopt remedies to correct deficiencies.
- Neutral observers continuously monitor our plants to make sure we follow and meet ISO 14001 standards.
- We will meet, if not exceed, all quality and environmental management standards such as DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 and DIN EN ISO 14001, which we do.

### **Commitment to Environ-Friendly Practices. Part 3.**

#### **Customer Service and Support.**

- Our school furniture is recognized throughout the world for setting high ecological standards.
- We reinforce customer expectations by being one of the world's leading environmentally responsible companies and meeting all third party standards for protecting our natural resources.

For more information or a further explanation of these objectives, contact your dealer or VS America at (704) 643-9121 or e-mail [info@vs-furniture.com](mailto:info@vs-furniture.com).