



green
A New Life for Old Furniture



Don't Let Your Old Furniture Go To Waste



Partnering with Schools to Recycle

For years, when schools retired their older classroom furniture, it was difficult to find an alternative to landfill disposal. Even today in communities with a strong emphasis on recycling, most recyclers don't accept the key components of classroom furniture, including laminated work surfaces, soft plastic chair shells and compression-molded hard plastic items.

Things changed in 2006, when Virco launched our industry's first and only Take-Back program. Recognizing that the refurbishment of a single classroom can generate tons of unwanted furniture components, we took the initiative to help schools recycle out-of-service work surfaces, chair shells and hard plastic components that would otherwise go to a landfill.

Initially, schools interested in Take-Back were asked to identify and prepare materials for shipment to Virco; to involve students in this process whenever possible; and to be responsible for shipping costs. While these commitments have enabled successful Take-Back projects to divert several tons of recyclables from landfill disposal and given students new, hands-on insights into the value of recycling, they've also been difficult for many schools to meet.

That's why, in response to numerous requests, Virco is now offering schools a new way to participate in Take-Back. For an added fee, Virco will pick up and recycle your out-of-service classroom chairs, desks and tables, as well as many other furniture items used on your campus. By expanding Take-Back in this way, we're making it easier for more schools to partner with us in recycling.

Take-Back is a natural development of Virco's proven commitment to recycling. In 1989 our Conway, Arkansas facility launched its recycling program with three materials: metals, office paper, and hydraulic oil. Now, our corporate-wide program includes over 40 items, ranging from cardboard, wood and various plastics, to cell phones, printer cartridges and computer hardware. To date, Virco has processed over 351,000,000 pounds of these recyclables.

Take-Back materials are introduced into the existing recycling streams of our domestic factories, giving you the assurance that what you send to us will actually be recycled. Some recyclables can be turned into Fortified Recycled Wood™ hard plastic that's used in ZUMAfird™ and Telos® furniture components, and in hard plastic work surfaces for Virco student desks and combo units. In fact, schools can request that a logo be molded into these components indicating that their Take-Back items were recycled into uniquely sustainable Virco furniture.



We invite you to contact your Virco representative for more information. Whether you'd prefer a fee-based Take-Back recycling project – or a project based on our initial approach to Take-Back – we're eager to partner with you!

The Experience

By participating in this program schools can turn a Take-Back project into a great learning experience for students. Through Virco's Take-Back Program, a school agrees to identify and prepare Take-Back materials for shipment using Virco's guidelines; involving students whenever possible gives them invaluable first-hand knowledge of recycling. A school also agrees to cover the expense of shipping materials to Virco or local vendors for recycling.

- 1. Identify Materials** - separate steel, soft plastic, hard plastic, laminated surfaces and all-wood components
- 2. Prepare Materials** - disassemble, palletize common components and wrap for shipment
- 3. Shipping Expenses** - cover shipping cost from origin to recycler

Call 800-448-4726 and speak to a representative about how Virco's Take-Back Program can work for you and your school.



Cash for Cardboard

In addition to our nationwide Take-Back program, Virco serves schools near our factory in Conway, Arkansas with a Cash for Cardboard program.

Through Cash for Cardboard – which was started in 1993 – Virco builds recycling bins for schools, transports their cardboard to a recycler, and then returns the proceeds to the schools. Many local businesses participate in the program by donating their cardboard so that schools can benefit.

To date, Virco has helped 35 schools in the Conway area earn more than \$100,000 – and divert hundreds of tons of recyclable material from landfill disposal – through Cash for Cardboard.

We encourage customers to establish a similar “Cash for Cardboard” community service project in their area to raise awareness of resource and recycling initiatives as well as gaining the added benefit of raising additional funds for supplies and equipment.



Virco would be glad to share the details of our Cash for Cardboard program in Conway to help customers develop a program of their own.

Virco Corporate Stewardship

As Virco enters its 7th decade, our wide-ranging Stewardship initiative continues to move forward. From popular new product introductions to industry-leading recycling efforts, Virco Stewardship encompasses a vast array of endeavors.

Virco Stewardship initiative can trace its origins to February of 1950, when we began working with America's schools as a newly established company. Although terms like “sustainability” and “sustainable business practices” weren't commonly used back then, they accurately describe the vision that inspired Virco's founder, Julian Virtue, to develop long-lasting classroom furniture. As a result of our enduring commitment to product quality and customer service, Virco has grown from a small southern California business with a single customer into the country's largest manufacturer and supplier of furniture for the K-12 market.



Visit www.virco.com to see the full story of Virco's environmental achievements.



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