



izzy was founded in 2001 on the belief that human-centered design can impact the lives of people. On an individual scale, that translates to creating furniture that is comfortable and helps people do their work, but on a broader scale, that includes improving the lives of future generations. We're able to do that through our respect for the environment, which stems from our love for children and our hope for the future. When we think of all the conversations and ideas and discoveries that lie before us, it makes us even more committed to doing what we can to ensure a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

A big part of how we're doing that involves seeking and adopting new ways to minimize the impact of izzy products on the environment, while continuing to maximize the positive affect our products have on people and the workplace. In large part, that means making smart choices when it comes to deciding on materials and processes, using recycled and recyclable materials, and processes that support clean water and air, and use minimal energy. But we're also busy dreaming up ideas for reusing izzy product in unexpected ways, taking cues from the creativity of children, nature and the ingenuity of others.

Where we choose to make our products makes a difference. izzydesign's headquarters and furniture manufacturing are located in Western Michigan, the office furniture capitol of the world. Most of our suppliers are concentrated within a 50 mile radius, which means less fuel is used to transport our materials. Our seating manufacturing facility is strategically located in Texas. This allows us to be close to regional suppliers, as well as near a large regional market, which minimizes fuel consumption as our seating is shipped out.

How we design our products makes a difference. izzy products are designed, engineered and manufactured for simplicity, flexibility and durability. By designing freestanding solutions that are light in scale, our products are easily movable and reconfigurable, allowing for maximum user flexibility and reuse. This means that when the needs of an office change, there may be no need to discard existing or purchase all new furniture. Staying away from panel systems also allows natural daylight, outdoor views and air to move freely through the space, other eco-friendly benefits. So with our furniture designed for a long life cycle, less material used in the manufacturing process and the most made of natural light, and we cut down on energy costs for both manufacturing and users.

Our NOTDOT design philosophy makes a difference. By holding ourselves to the standard that No One Thing Does One Thing, we make sure to design products that are versatile, increasing the life cycle and encouraging its reuse rather than its replacement. A product can serve more than one purpose within a day, like a storage pedestal that doubles as a guest seat. Or, it can serve one purpose in an office and a completely different one later in its life, like a transaction counter that transforms to a coffee table.

Using lean manufacturing makes a difference. izzydesign uses lean manufacturing techniques throughout the manufacturing process, reducing waste, materials, space and energy.

Our commitment to a sustainable future makes a difference. The GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI) has awarded GREENGUARD™ Indoor Air Quality Certification to the izzydesign seating line – including izzyseating, HÅG by izzy and SuperiorSeating by izzy. The GREENGUARD certification is significant because it was awarded to izzydesign's entire collection of seating products for meeting safe indoor air standards – without any restrictions or modifications to product design, materials or processes. GREENGUARD certification has also been awarded to our powder coated steel collections – Edison, Calvin, and Clara Archival.



The right materials make a difference.

Recycled and recyclable materials: The cold rolled steel used in izzy products contains a high-recycled content. Then that steel, as well as the extruded aluminum found in our products, can be easily disassembled, separated and recycled at your local recycling facility at the end of the product life.

Wood: All wood core used in izzy products is FSC certified. Then we go a step further, sealing all wood surfaces to make sure any trace of formaldehyde stays where it belongs. Our wood veneers are reconstituted, meaning they are made from 100% post industrial recycled content.

Finishes: Water-based coatings are used to finish all veneered products, which mean you get all of the durability, wear and scratch resistance of traditional catalyzed coating, without the VOC's (volatile organic compounds) associated with traditional wood finishing methods. That means a safer work environment for employees.

Glue: For laminating, izzydesign uses only solvent-free water based PVA (poly vinyl acetate) adhesives.

Powder Coat: For painted surfaces, izzydesign uses a solvent-free (VOC-free) powder coat process. This not only keeps the air clean and employees safe, it also allows excess powder (i.e. over-spray) to be reclaimed and re-used. On top of all that, izzy was the first in Michigan and the office furniture industry to use a low phosphate paint line wash system that does not pollute water.

Textiles: izzy's collection of textiles includes a hip-looking group of eco-responsible, biodegradable fabrics made from post-consumer recycled material—six patterns and 52 colors give you plenty of choice.

HÅG Seating: One of the things we immediately admired about our Norway-based partner, HÅG, is that company's long history as a European industry leader in environmental stewardship. Not only is HÅG ISO 14001 certified and EMAS registered, environmental product declarations (EPD's) are available on many of its products—soon on all! And this is super cool: In Europe, HÅG takes back old office chairs, regardless of brand, at no cost with the purchase of new seating solutions. HÅG also makes many of its polypropylene inner shells from recycled Volvo car bumpers. All of HÅG's seating products are also GREENGUARD certified.

Packaging: izzydesign protects its products during shipping with corrugated packaging containing 45% post-consumer recycled fiber. That also means that about 45% less material is used to ship our products than what would be needed using virgin timber. Another option, blanket wrap, can be specified for truckload shipments.

Customization: At izzydesign we simultaneously focus on the customer and our manufacturing agility, which allows for product customization in design and materials. If a customer wants any other green materials to be used for a specific project (e.g. Green Cross certified particleboard panels), we're happy to make it happen.

Literature: All of our literature and product catalogs are printed on paper with post consumer recycled content using aqueous coatings (that's just a fancy way of saying we make sure they're fully recyclable).

Headquarters site: Rather than directing storm water runoff from the building and parking lots into the sewer system, we collect it in a charming pond in front of our building creating a pleasant habitat for "Blue", our resident turtle, and other wildlife. This, and our clean water paint wash system, means izzy is released from regulatory water reporting.

Involvement: To keep our environmental knowledge current, share practices and participate in collective efforts in the industry and community, we are active with many organizations, including IIDA, the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Sustainable Business Forum, BIFMA's Sustainability Committee and International Aid.

