

Clarity™ wood finish process

Steelcase's Clarity™ water-borne UV clear coat provides exceptional durability, clarity and quality, all while helping to protect the environment.

The water-borne Clarity process marks a major milestone in the transition we began back in 2001 to eliminate solvents from our wood furniture finishing processes. Since 2001, we've reduced Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions by 91%. In 2007, the Clarity finish was refined further to reduce hazardous emissions by more than 85%.

What makes Clarity different than other wood finishes?

Because our finishing process is water-borne, casegoods manufactured in our wood plant have **Indoor Advantage™ Certification** from Scientific Certification Systems for indoor air quality.

Indoor Advantage Certification means Steelcase wood casegoods can help contribute toward earning a **LEED point for Low Emitting Furniture** (EQ 4.5).

It's our **standard process**, so casegoods made in our wood plant meet these criteria. Unlike other manufacturers, who can only meet indoor air quality certification criteria as a "special."

Clarity water-borne UV clear coat is more durable. Because it **cures faster**, there's less risk of damage during shipping and installation.

Typically the trade-off for durability is limited reparability, but the Clarity finish is different. It **allows for repairs to the topcoat** should damage occur.

The **finish consistency and transparency** let the natural beauty of the wood come through, in keeping with Steelcase's strict finish standards.

Steelcase wood products are manufactured in a LEED certified manufacturing building (the first LEED certified manufacturing facility in the world). The Clarity water-borne finish is a complement to the building and to the on-going goal of improving our environmental performance.



Cleaning & Disinfecting Steelcase Wood Furniture:

Steelcase's Clarity water-borne UV clear coat provides exceptional durability, clarity and quality, all while helping to protect the environment. To help you decipher what cleaning products to use to disinfect and clean Steelcase wood furniture, we've compiled a list of household and industrial cleaners and tips to help answer your dealer and customer questions.

For everyday cleaning:

Dust with a slightly damp, soft cloth, using another soft cloth to dry. Always wipe the surface in the direction of the wood grain

Monthly cleaning wood:

Clean the surface with a quality cleaner such as Murphy's Oil Soap, Orange Glow or a mild detergent. Dilute in accordance with manufacturer's directions. Dampen, but do not saturate a soft cloth with the diluted cleaning solution and wipe the surface in the direction of the wood grain to remove dirt and fingerprints. Wipe surface clean with a soft, dry cloth. Oils, ammonias and wax should never be used on your wood furniture.

Spills and Stains:

- All spills should be wiped up immediately with a soft, absorbent cloth and not allowed to dry.
- Read the label. Is it safe for porous surfaces like wood? Most cleaners advise to test the product in a small, inconspicuous area for colorfastness before cleaning the stain.

Disinfecting wood:

The best practice when deciding which products to use to protect against bacteria and germs is to read the label. Determine if the product is safe to use on wood furniture and use as directed. Products designed for non-porous surfaces should be avoided. There are safer products to use to achieve the same results.

Most industrial and institutional type products can be applied and wiped off readily without impacting the surface of the finish. However, if left on the surface with

or without a covering, some could cause the surface to soften. If this occurs, the finish should recover its original hardness over a period of time. Stay away from anything labeled "abrasive" or "corrosive." Products of this nature are generally used for nonporous surfaces, not wood.

The following household and industrial cleaning products have been tested on the Steelcase Wood Clarity finish:

Recommended*

Clorox Wipes & Bleach
Dupont RelyOn Antiseptic Hand Wipes and Spray
Eliminate SANI-SHIELD 3 in1 Surface Care RTU
Green Works by Clorox
Lysol Disinfecting Wipes & Spray
OPTICIDE-3
Orange Glow
Oust Air Sanitizer Spray
Oust Surface Disinfectant
Purell Wipes
Virex II 256

Not Recommended

3M TB Quat Disinfectant RTU
Citrace Hospital Germicide
Dimension III One Step Disinfectant Cleaner
Oxivar TB by Johnson Wax
Virex Tb

* Continual use of these products over an expanded timeframe (days, months, etc.) has not been tested.

Standard test methods:

The Clarity finish passes stringent durability and stain resistance standard test methods:

Stain resistance**

- Ball point pen
- Black marker pen
- Cola
- 1% Dawn detergent
- 50% Ethanol/water
- Hot black coffee
- Liquid correction fluid
- Mineral spirits
- Murphy Oil soap
- Old English red oil
- Permanent marker
- Tap water

** See Caring for your wood furniture booklet for cleaning stains, adstock #08-0000275

Durability

- Airborne emissions
- Discoloration
- Environmental extremes exposure
- Green print resistance
- Hot/cold check resistance
- Hot print resistance
- Plasticizer resistance
- Resistance to discoloration from office equipment "feet"
- Resistance to fade
- Resistance to stain
- Solvent entrapment
- Toughness/adhesive
- UV resistance