

FABRICS

Frequently asked questions about Kusch + Co cover fabrics

1. Material origin:

1.1. What types of fabrics and textiles does Kusch + Co use for its upholstery?

We use wool/new wool, Trevira CS, blended fabrics as well as leather, synthetic leather and microfiber fabrics covering a wide spectrum of characteristics. Additional materials used for the upholstery are woven glass fabric and polyester fleece as well as a wide variety of foams, such as polyurethane soft foam, cold foam, visco-elastic foam or recycled foam. Our standard collection comprises approx. 25 cover fabrics. Our Trend Collection has a myriad of additional cover fabrics on offer. Additionally, customer's own materials are also used.



1.2. Which characteristics and criteria are used to select the cover fabrics for our standard collection?

Our main criteria are look, texture, colour palette and mechanical characteristics, such as resistance to light, to abrasion and to rubbing as well as colour fastness. We also attach great importance to environmental aspects, such as percentage of recycled materials, recyclability, environmentally compatible dyeing and ecolabels, like the EU Flower, Oeko-Tex® Standard 100 and many more. Furthermore, a low flammability is a must for all cover fabrics.



2. Environmental impact caused by hazardous substances:

2.1. Does Kusch + Co use hazardous substances?

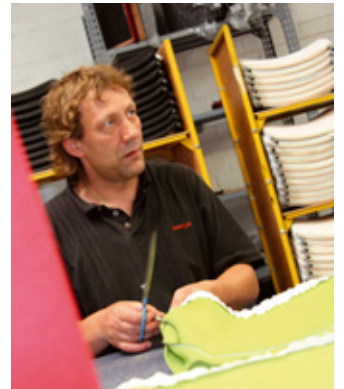
No. To our knowledge, all cover fabrics of our standard collection are free from hazardous substances. We had our fabrics tested for hazardous substances by TÜV Rheinland. As a result, all fabrics used for the series 9200 Papilio have obtained the "Toxproof" label.

2.2. Does Kusch + Co process customer's own material and how do we assess the fabric's characteristics?

We do. In principle, we always need a data sheet with the fabric's processing instructions and characteristics. The supplier has to fill out the form and return it to us. We may not be able to process a fabric when it is inadequate or when we are unsure about its origin or composition.

2.3. Do we process PVC-based fabrics?

Yes. These fabrics are designed to meet the hygienic requirements of social institutions, f.i. to allow disinfection with aggressive disinfectants. PVC-based artificial leather is our tried and tested solution for those areas. We have been using it for many years without incident. There are currently no valid alternatives.



3. Transportation:

3.1. How does Kusch + Co minimize the transport route for its supplies?

Approximately two thirds of our yearly material consumption are ordered from a handful of major suppliers. In order to optimize the transportation capacity, we order large quantities for our 600 m² storeroom. Both factors help to reduce the transportation frequency, thus saving valuable energy.

3.2. Does Kusch + Co use public transportation?

As there is no train connection (Deutsche Bahn) with our sole production site in Hallenberg, transportation by trucks is indispensable for delivering our goods.



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4. Recycling:

4.1. Is it possible to reuse or recycle the fabrics and textiles of the Kusch + Co collection?

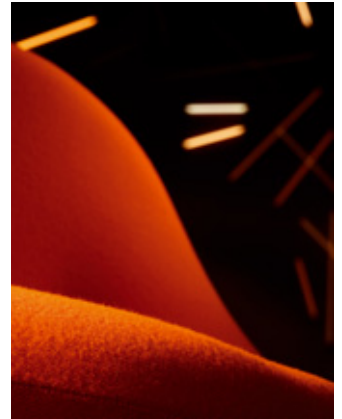
Yes. All materials and scraps are separated by material type and are collected at regular intervals by accredited recycling companies. These scraps are 100 % recycled. Usually, the scraps are frayed out and processed into secondary products. The processing industry recycles leather scraps into small articles.

4.2. Does Kusch + Co process fabrics made of recycled materials?

Yes. For instance, the fabric Urban Plus by Camira of our standard collection is made of 100 % recycled polyester. The foam parts of some models are made of recycled material. As recycled foams no longer possess the same high-quality, long-lasting mechanical characteristics of new foams, we cannot use recycled foams for flat seat and backrests.

4.3. Does Kusch + Co offer the service to reupholster its products?

In principle yes. If needed, we first have to check the technical feasibility on a sample. This service is not cost-neutral. Quotes are given for each request individually.



5. Production:

5.1. How are the fabrics stored?

The fabrics are stored by material type.

5.2. Storage of problematic fabrics?

Fabrics such as artificial leather or customer's own material with unclear processing instructions are stored separately from other fabrics.



6. Usage:

6.1. Does any fabric, textile or leather in the Kusch + Co standard collection have a negative impact on the environment?

No. Not that we are aware of.

6.2. Does Kusch + Co use chrome tanned leather?

Yes. Instead of chromium (IV) salt that is used for 85 % of the global leather production, our suppliers only use chromium (III) salts for his chrome tanning procedure. Chromium (III) salts do not pose any health risks whereas the chromium (IV) salts may be harmful or hazardous. That is why we do not use chromium (IV).

6.3. Do we provide cleaning and disinfection instructions for our fabrics?

We have compiled an extensive and detailed cleaning guide for all fabrics. Our manual "Cleaning and Disinfection" has been especially compiled for fabrics that are commonly used in social institutions for their hygienic characteristics. In this manual, you find a list of well-suited disinfectants for each of these fabrics.



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7. Standards:

7.1. Which external certificates can Kusch + Co provide for its materials?

- DIN EN ISO 9001:2000 certified since 1994 (Quality Management), DIN EN ISO 14001:2005 (Environment)
- We meet all the requirements of OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety)
- PEFC certified as wood-processing company and for its products
- Most of our products have received the GS certificate for Tested Product Safety from TÜV Rheinland (cf website)
- Some products have obtained the Ergonomics certificate
- Quality Office Certificate (cf website)
- One product has obtained the CE mark within the framework of the declaration of conformity for medical products (Tested Medical Product)
- LGA toxproof

7.2. Does Kusch + Co issue internal certificates?

By reason of the Product Liability Act, we have all our products thoroughly tested. We adopt the same test procedures as if we would apply for the GS certificate for Tested Product Safety. In case a product does not possess the official GS mark, we issue an internal certificate. This certificate always specifies the standards used for the tests which are congruent with the requirements of the GS certificate. Irrespective of this, our Quality Assurance Department will randomly test whether the products that are currently produced in our factory meet all the quality standards.

7.3. How do the Factory Test Certificates issued by Kusch + Co compare to external certificates?

Kusch + Co has been certified in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9001 since 1994, authorizing us to issue "factory test certificates" or "manufacturer's declarations" for internally tested products. The factory certificates list all the standards on the basis of which our products have to meet the quality requirements. Our Quality Assurance team, an integral part of our quality management system in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9001, validates the certificates. The manufacturer's declarations are equivalent to Material Safety Data Sheets, as such, external testing is not necessary.

