

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY



At BASF, we don't make the Herman Miller Mirra chair. We make it more comfortable and environmentally friendly.

Customer: Herman Miller, Inc., Zeeland, Mich.

End-Use: Mirra™ work chair

Product: Ultramid® nylon

CHALLENGE: Herman Miller has stringent Design for the Environment protocols that focus on creating economic value while simultaneously valuing the environment. Materials used in their chairs need to be economically recycled at the end of their useful life.

The Mirra work chair was designed using environmental protocols Herman Miller developed in collaboration with international environmental leaders McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry (MBDC). As a result, materials used in the design of the new chair needed to meet not only performance parameters, but environmental requirements as well.

SOLUTION: BASF supplies Herman Miller with Ultramid nylon to produce many of the Mirra work chair's components, including the spine, lumbar support assembly, the seat frame, adjustable seat edge, arms and trigger mechanism. Because Ultramid nylon can be economically recycled, it supports Herman Miller's environmental friendliness requirements for its Mirra work chair.

The Mirra work chair features the one-piece TriFlex™ backrest with built-in flex zones made from Ultramid nylon. The chair also utilizes FlexFront™, an adjustable flexing front edge seat that allows the occupant to control seat depth. Mirra's central spine construction made from BASF's Ultramid nylon supports its back, while allowing for flexibility and freedom of movement.

BENEFITS:

- Nearly all – 96 percent – of the materials used in the Mirra work chair, including BASF's Ultramid nylon, can be economically recycled at the end of the chair's useful life.
- The Mirra work chair's recyclable material content comprises 42 percent of the total chair weight and replaces the originally designed over-molded steel-and-polymer spine.
- The Mirra work chair has set the standard for ergonomic comfort, performance, aesthetics, environmental friendliness and value. It won the Society of Plastics Engineers' 2004 Environmental Design Award and the Gold Award in the contract furniture industry's Best of NeoCon 2003 Competition.

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