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Victor has long been committed to the principles of sustainability. The **eHome™** educational series is our way of supporting our commitment by increasing overall knowledge on a variety of environmental issues. **eHome™** is a brand of fabrics made from environmentally friendly materials and designed specifically for the residential furniture industry.

At Victor, we believe sustainability includes engaging our stakeholders on all levels ... so that we can work together to take the steps necessary to make a difference.

## 2.2 Sustainable Fabrics

With the popularity and rising awareness for sustainable fabrics there are many materials to choose from and making informed decisions can be difficult.

Sustainable fabrics can be natural, organic, or from recycled content.

Natural fiber fabrics simply refer to fabrics made from fibers found in nature, such as cotton, wool, ramie, jute and bamboo. Many natural fabrics are made from fibers grown and manufactured without toxins – but in order to be labeled “organic” the fabrics must be third-party certified to be grown and manufactured without toxic chemicals.

Guidelines for sustainable fabrics include:

- All materials and process inputs and outputs are safe for human and ecological health in all phases of the product life cycle.
- All energy, material and process inputs come from renewable or recycled sources.
- All materials are capable of returning safely to either natural systems or industrial systems.
- All stages in the product life cycle actively support the reuse or recycling of these materials at the highest possible level of quality.



Recycled polyester fabrics are produced from plastic (made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource). Fabrics that are made from recycled polyester are considered sustainable products, and fall into one of two categories: pre-consumer recycled (derived from manufacturing or industrial waste) and post-consumer (made from consumer waste, including soda pop bottles).

## 2.3 Responsible Design and Reducing Waste

Responsible design is a design principle whereby products are conceived, produced, packaged and distributed with their long-term environmental impacts in mind. At Victor, responsible design starts at the beginning of the product development cycle. Selecting yarns from recycled or natural materials including fibers that are free of harmful chemicals such as antimony, minimizing waste in the manufacturing process and controlling sampling consumption are all part of our commitment to creating fabrics guided by responsible design principles.

Waste takes many different forms: from solid and hazardous waste in energy and material use; waste in manufacturing and administrative activities to waste of human resources. Waste causes great loss of value and resources within our industry. Victor believes that through responsible design - waste can be reduced and minimized.

### What can we learn from Nature?

Our industrial system today is primarily linear, with “Take-Make-Waste” processes. Materials are extracted from the earth’s crust, transported to manufacturing sites, used to produce products - then products are transported to users and finally, at the end-of-life, discarded as waste.

Nature is a great teacher and we understand that our society and industrial systems must begin to mimic nature and move from being primarily linear to being cyclical. Each material must be used as efficiently as possible and must be chosen so that it may either return safely to a cycle within the environment or remain viable in the industrial cycle.

*Responsible design promotes not only reuse and recycling but the reduction of waste. At Victor, we strive for reduced materials use, use of recycled materials, use of more benign materials and reducing waste.*

## 2.4 Pre-Consumer Materials

The use of the term post-industrial material has been phased out. The new term that needs to be used is pre-consumer material. Pre-consumer material is defined as material that is diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. This information is important to manufacturers making claims about the content and type of material in their final product. Products making environmental claims need to conform to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) guidelines when listing recycled content.

## 2.5 Eco Intelligence®

Starting in 2001, Victor introduced Eco Intelligence® to the commercial interiors industry. Eco Intelligence® is more than just a product, it's a smarter way of thinking – and it encompasses our corporate commitment to sustainability, our industry leadership on the issue and our continuous pursuit of environmental innovation.

Victor has invested significant resources — time, money and most importantly, people — to develop the industry's most advanced “family of green” products. Eco Intelligent® branded products make it easier for our customers to identify and choose the products that meet their environmental objectives and specifications. We are committed to continuing this investment by adding the eHome™ brand of fabrics under the Eco Intelligence® umbrella.

Eco Intelligent® products meet customers' needs with fabrics for a variety of end uses: healthcare, hospitality, institutional/educational, corporate and residential.

At Victor, our path to sustainability is guided by our Eco Intelligence Initiatives® that focus on four key areas: partnerships, products, processes and people. It is these guiding principles that support our brand philosophy and our branded products through tangible examples of our commitment to reducing our impact on the environment.

Since 2001 our Eco Intelligence Initiatives® have:

- Reduced greenhouse emissions by 80%
- Reduced energy use by 24%
- Increased renewable energy from 71% to 91%
- Reduced water consumption by 74%
- Reduced chemicals by 50%
- Recycled 99.9% of our textile, plastic, and paper waste
- Received ISO 14001 environmental standard certification
- Supported our commitment to lean manufacturing
- Led to the formation of the Eco Intelligence Council™ (EIC)

### The Victor Pledge: Good Chemistry

Victor developed Eco Intelligence® as much more than just a product... it's a smarter way of thinking. Our goals are to design and manufacture products that benefit the environment in every phase of their life cycle, and to ensure that these products can be safely returned to natural or technical systems of recycling.



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