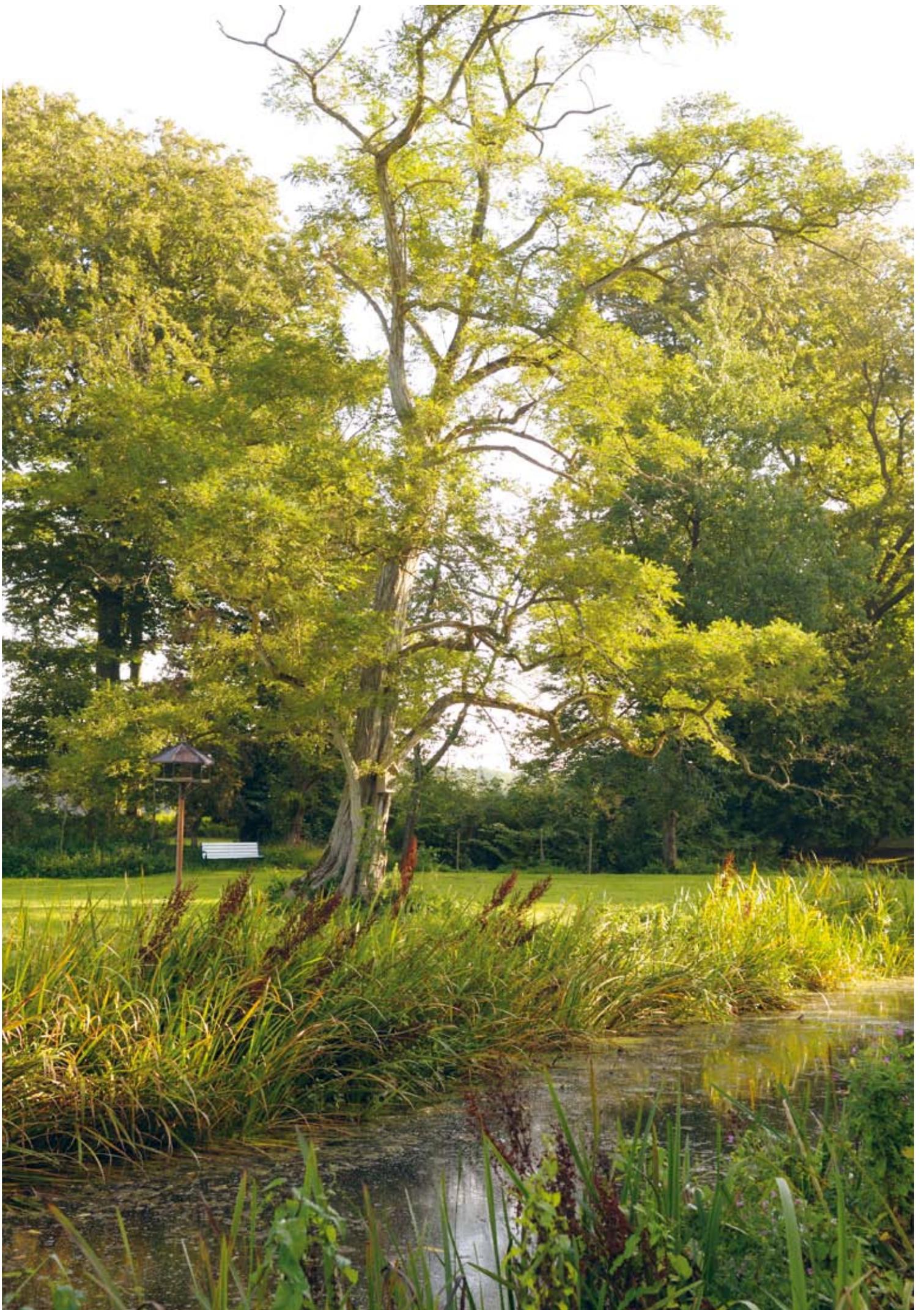




bulthaupt environment



Responsibility to people and the environment

Environmental protection is becoming increasingly important and will remain a key issue in our society's future. Therefore, bulthaup places great importance on treating our environment in a responsible and sustainable way.

In times of decreasing resources and increasing environmental pollution, the necessity for companies to contribute towards protecting the environment becomes imperative.

Many countries around the world have already responded by establishing rules and regulations for the manufacturing industry. Conferences such as the Global Climate Summit in Kyoto in 1997, or the Climate Conference in Copenhagen in 2009 have already brought the wider public's attention to the importance of this issue.

bulthaup, as one of the leading (premium sector) companies in the kitchens industry regards the existing rules and regulations merely as minimum requirements and is fully aware of the social responsibility it has to produce environmentally friendly products.

Contemporary in every way: bulthaup and ecology

The term ecology is derived from the Greek word 'oikos', meaning house, and 'logos', meaning teaching. Ecology is therefore the science of the house, or in the wider sense, the household of nature. Originally, it was regarded as a branch of biology dealing with the way that organisms interact with each other and their natural environment.

In the 20th century, the term ecology was increasingly used in an environmental political context and was popularized through initiatives by UNESCO and the publication of various studies (1972 Club of Rome, 1980 Global 2000).

Today, the world has realized that we humans are part of a biological environment whether we are aware of it or not. We shape our environment either unintentionally or deliberately.

When designing and manufacturing each individual component of a bulthaup product, not only does bulthaup observe the statutory norms and additional self-imposed standards and quality guidelines but we also take a serious approach to social and ecological responsibility.

"Through intelligent minimization, many things in life can be produced and made more simply" (Otl Aicher). bulthaup b1 follows this principle and deliberately focuses on using a few simple honest and authentic materials in a systematic way.

A key feature of bulthaup b3 is its "lightweight construction." Thin materials give the kitchens both a delicate and light appearance while at the same time conserving resources by using less materials. As a result, bulthaup succeeds in combining minimalist design, perfect quality and ecological awareness in a single product.

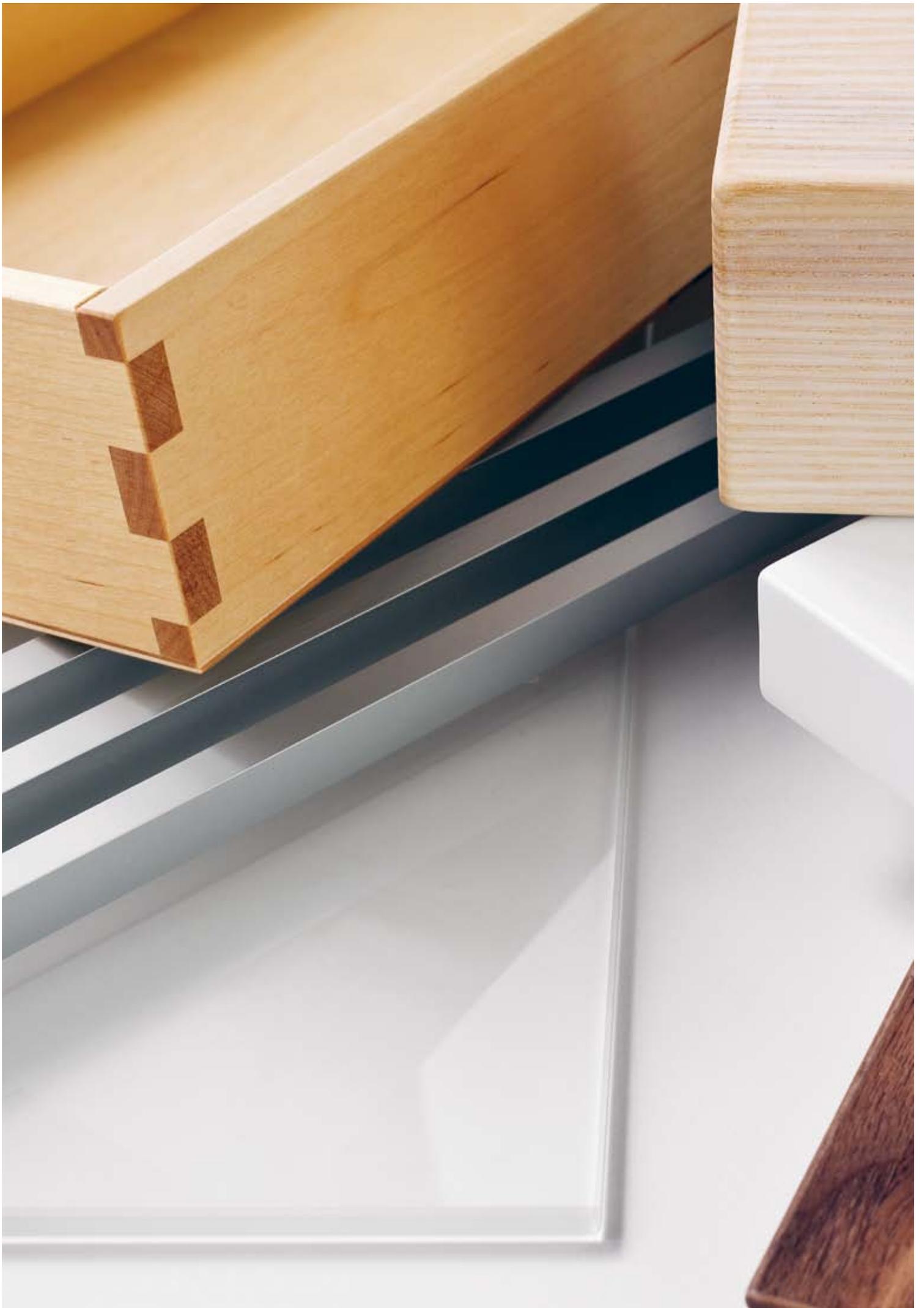
Environmental protection right from the start

Right from the product development stage, bulthaup focuses on economical use of materials, energy conserving manufacturing process, ensuring that its products do not harm the environment when disposed of. The long lifespan of bulthaup's products is a key environmental benefit. The emphasis on having the highest quality designs, materials and manufacturing processes guarantees an above-average lifespan of a bulthaup kitchen, therefore reducing the environmental impact caused by premature disposal.

Longevity through good design means timeless design. Even after many years, a bulthaup kitchen remains appealing. A bulthaup kitchen does not succumb to fashion trends, but stands behind its promises and typically stays with a client for many years. Longevity in the sense of high quality materials and a superb manufacturing process is guaranteed by adhering to our own strict internal bulthaup quality standards (BQN).

To safeguard this high standard of quality, bulthaup has introduced a quality management system compliant with DIN EN ISO 9001: 2008. This system and its application are checked once a year by an accredited certification office, with particular attention being paid to the areas of development, production, sales and service. Compliance with all the relevant specifications is confirmed with a certificate (see illustration).





Use of renewable raw materials ensures sustainability

One outcome of bulthaup's design considerations is the use of renewable raw materials, such as for fronts, side panels, wall panels and bar tops. bulthaup uses solid wood and veneers that are native to Central Europe or North America and are therefore considered ecologically safe. Other types of wood may be used at a customer's specific request, and is only considered after proof is provided that its origins are renewable, such as through an FSC or PEFC certificate.

The classics in the bulthaup fronts' program are currently the rapidly renewable bamboo and the linoleum made entirely from natural raw materials.

The use of native woods is also continued with the interior organization systems of a bulthaup kitchen. Drawers, pull-outs and inserts for bulthaup b1, for instance, are made from multi-ply layers of solid wood birch strips. For bulthaup b3 and its interior organization system "Lignum", oak or walnut is used in its natural solid form, not as a composite. bulthaup refrains from the use of tropical woods and encourages its suppliers of wood and wood materials to follow suite and take a sustainable approach.

bulthaup sources materials and purchased components from qualified suppliers that comply with bulthaup's quality standards (BQN). These internal standards, which often far exceed legal and normative requirements, describe the demands that bulthaup makes of the quality and design of the materials it uses.





Product safety through constant checks

For bulthaup, the safety of its customers is paramount.

This is why bulthaup has its products checked by LGA QualiTest GmbH, which is approved by the Bavarian government agency for structural engineering. After extensive testing, this organization awards the German GS test mark (GS = geprüfte Sicherheit / tested safety), which confirms that the products comply with the requirements of the German equipment and product safety law.

All electrical products are also subjected to testing as per the European EMC directive and carry the CE mark (Conformité Européenne (compliance with EU guidelines)). Since bulthaup operates worldwide, tests have also been carried out for other countries and the relevant approvals obtained (e.g. CB, UL, CSA, GOST).





Detailed statements on individual components from production

Wood materials – compliance with all prescribed limits

All wood materials (particle board and plywood, MDF) satisfy as a minimum the European threshold set down for formaldehyde emissions (E1). In anticipation of the formaldehyde emissions thresholds in California becoming stricter (CARB Phase 2), bulthaup responded and switched its production to materials that comply with these thresholds even before the legislation is introduced.

To avoid residual emissions, all surfaces and edges are sealed. All wood materials are free from the wood preservatives pentachlorophenol (PCP) and lindane, making them completely safe from a physiological perspective.

Water-based lacquer

Unlike conventional furniture surfaces, kitchen fronts are exposed to more wear (mechanical stress, water, steam, grease, frequent cleaning, etc.). The resilience this demands, such as resistance to wear or scratches, is normally achieved through the use of solvent-containing lacquers. To reduce the use of this solvent, bulthaup, in cooperation with lacquer manufacturers has developed a water-based lacquer process for kitchens in which water takes over the function of the solvent.

Other advantages of this water-based lacquer in terms of eco-friendliness are the considerably reduced volume needed to be applied while at the same time maintaining consistent quality, as well as the ability to catch free-flying particles (overspray) with filters and recycling them or disposing of them in an environmentally-friendly manner.

This environmentally friendly process is used wherever it is applicable to the type of wood or base material and is constantly being expanded.

Thanks to constant contact and intensive collaboration with lacquer manufacturers, bulthaup has been the front runner for many years in the development and use of high-quality water-based lacquers and stains.

Glues / adhesives – low emission and largely formaldehyde-free

The support boards (MDF, plywood) are pressed with veneer, laminate, aluminum or stainless steel. For adhesion bulthaup only uses the most modern, low toxic and largely formaldehyde-free glues, adhesives and sealants.

Solid wood / veneer

bulthaup believes strongly in sustainable forestry that protects our resources. For this reason, only ecologically sound solid woods and veneers from Central Europe or North America are used at bulthaup. We categorically refuse to use ecologically questionable types of wood or wood that does not come from sustainably managed sources.

Aluminum – almost unlimited lifespan, completely emission-free

Aluminum is one of the most recyclable materials used in the furniture industry. Without loss of quality, it can be reshaped over and over again and uses only around 5 % of the energy required to mine it when it is recycled. Other environment-specific benefits of this metallic material are that it does not emit any toxins and that it has a virtually unlimited lifespan.





Stainless steel – Premium quality with almost unlimited lifespan

Stainless steel used to be primarily applied in commercial kitchens, but recently it also is increasingly used in upscale private homes and not just for water points and worktops. The reason for this is its exclusive appearance combined with low maintenance and a virtually unlimited lifespan. Stainless steel is completely safe from a physiological perspective and, thanks to its surface properties it does not promote bacterial growth, hence it is the most hygienic surface available for a worktop.

Packaging – recycling as a design principle

bulthaup protects all the products it sends out with specially adapted packaging. When developing these packaging systems, bulthaup places particular emphasis on their recyclability. Attention is paid to using materials that are as distinct as possible (wood, wood materials, cardboard, paper, PP, PE, EPS). Certain products, such as worktops with sinks or tables, are dispatched in very stable multi-use packaging. bulthaup constantly adheres to the principle of "as much as is needed, but as little as possible" when developing its packaging systems.

Production – responsibility for mankind and the environment

The entire production is oriented towards energy conservation and cost-saving processes. The creation of waste is avoided wherever possible, and any leftover materials are sent for recycling. Waste from wood and wood materials is converted into energy in our in-house, modern combustion system.

All work flows are constantly monitored and geared toward the health and safety of bulthaupt's employees. Hazardous materials are avoided as much as possible, and when technology allows, these materials are substituted. Areas in which hazardous materials are handled are installed with technical equipment that will ensure that no leakage can occur. Oil strainers, covers for drainage channels and conduit blocking prevent accidental contamination of the water supply system. There is no direct discharge into any ground water. Waste gases emitted are cleaned using electric filters. Consultants have been appointed for the removal of waste, water protection and hazardous goods and who monitor the entire production process.

Local authority checks

bulthaupt has worked effectively and efficiently for many years with all the relevant authorities (trade control, trade associations, district council office).

Future – investment in pioneering technologies promotes environmental protection

Investments in pioneering technologies and processes are a key element of bulthaupt's philosophy. For this reason, constant improvement of its environmental protection activities is one of the issues at the heart of bulthaupt's research.



Impressum

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