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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.

## 1.2 Sustainability at Victor

Victor has developed a methodology that is holistic and regenerative. We think of our impact on the environment as a footprint – and sustainability means working in ways that do not adversely affect living systems and our natural resources. This ensures that we will leave as small a footprint as possible.

### Victor has chosen the following measures of sustainability:

1. Product/material transparency
2. Material and chemical input safety
3. Recyclability and recycled content
4. Renewable energy and resource efficiency
5. Increasingly sustainable manufacturing processes
6. Water quality and conservation
7. Social responsibility and fiscal sustainability

We think sustainable product design is an example of the whole being truly greater than the sum of its parts.

“We have a responsibility to sustain — if not enhance — our natural environment and our nation’s economy for future generations.”

Steve Johnson, Administrator  
U.S. EPA

## 1.3 Polyester & Petroleum – Where to Start?

Polyester is a synthetic fiber derived from petroleum. By recycling polyester we reduce our dependence on oil and keep it out of landfills, decreasing the amount of nonrenewable materials and lessening our footprint on the environment. There are basically two types of recycled polyester: post-consumer and post-industrial.

### What is “post-consumer recycled”?

Once a material or finished product has served its intended use and has been diverted or recovered from waste destined for disposal, it is then considered “post-consumer.” Having completed its life as a consumer item, it can then be recycled as such. This differs from “pre-consumer” or “post-industrial” waste, which is generated by industrial or manufacturing processes.



Post consumer materials include recyclables collected in commercial and residential recycling programs, such as office paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, plastics and metals. This type of waste is more difficult to separate and collect, but very important as it keeps tons of material from going to the landfill.

### What is “post-industrial recycled”?

Output from a process that has not been used as part of a consumer product is considered “post industrial.” Post-industrial recycled material is typically derived from manufacturing waste or sub-standard products that have not been used at the consumer level. Recycling keeps the material from being landfilled, incinerated or otherwise disposed of. Post-industrial materials are part of the broader category of “recovered materials,” which also includes print overruns, over-issue publications and obsolete inventories.

Recycled-content products may contain some pre-consumer waste, some post-consumer waste or a combination of both. A product does not have to contain 100 percent recovered materials to be considered “recycled,” but clearly the higher the percentage of recycled content, the greater the amount of waste that is diverted from disposal.

### Recycled product myths

**False: Recycled products are inferior in quality.** Recycled products have the same quality, reliability and dependability. A survey by the Buy Recycled Business Alliance asked hundreds of consumers about their satisfaction with recycled content products. Fully 97% of respondents were pleased with the performance of recycled content products.

**False: Recycled products cost more.** This used to be the case for some materials, but now many recycled products are priced competitively with those made from virgin materials – and in some cases, recycled goods are even cheaper. Demand has lowered prices, and if you continue to purchase products made with recycled materials, this trend will continue.

## 1.4 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.

eco INTELLIGENCE®



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