

WE PUT QUALITY TO THE TEST

CONTINUOUS PRODUCT QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

QUALITY TESTING LABS IN ARCADIA, WI; ECRU, MS; LEESPORT, PA; COLTON, CA; SHANGHAI, CHINA AND VIETNAM
STAY IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION AS TESTS AND PRODUCT STANDARDS ARE DEVELOPED AND EXECUTED BOTH IN THE LAB AND ON THE FACTORY FLOOR.

MACHINE: INSTRON

TEST EXAMPLES: TEST THE TENSILE STRENGTH, TEARING STRENGTH, ADHESION STRENGTH, SEAM SLIPPAGE AND ELONGATION OF ALL KINDS OF COVER MATERIAL.



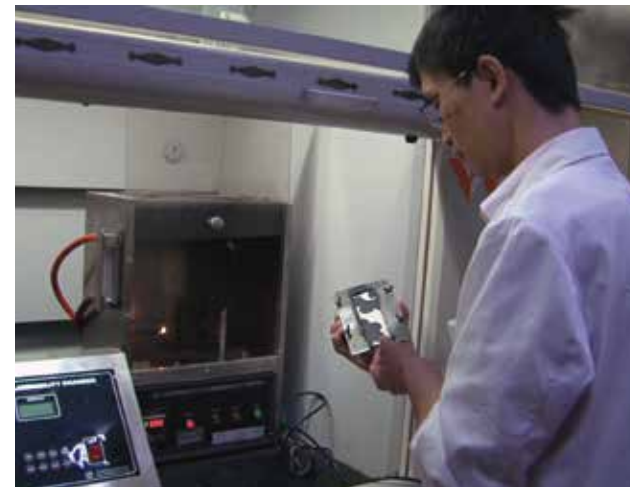
MACHINE: CROCK METER

TEST EXAMPLES: TEST THE COLOR FASTNESS OF TEXTILES FROM ONE MATERIAL TO ANOTHER. TEST THE DISCOLORATION OF TEXTILES AND LEATHERS AFTER ABRASION.



MACHINE: FLAME, FIRE, AND FLAMMABILITY TESTING CHAMBER

TEST EXAMPLES: TESTING APPARATUS FOR UNDERSTANDING THE FLAME RETARDANTS OF RESILIENCE FILLING MATERIALS USED IN UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE. UFAC FLAME TEST, TB 117E*, UK FLAMMABILITY TEST, AND SMOLDER TEST.



MACHINE: UNITED

TEST EXAMPLES: USED TO TEST INDENTATION FORCE DEFLECTION, HYSTERESIS, SUPPORT FACTOR OF FOAM AND FIBER.



MACHINE: DYNAMIC SEAM SLIPPAGE

TEST EXAMPLES: PROVIDES DYNAMIC FORCES TO TEST STRENGTHS OF SEAMS AND STITCHING.



MACHINE: FLEXING TESTER

TEST EXAMPLES: TEST THE MATERIALS ABILITY TO BE CREASED AND FOLDED REPEATEDLY TO ASSESS AGAINST MATERIAL WEAR.



MACHINE: ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMBER

TEST EXAMPLES: EXPOSES WOOD AND PU FABRIC TO A RANGE OF HOT AND COLD TEMPERATURES WHILE UNDER PREDETERMINED HUMIDITIES.



MACHINES: ABRASION TESTERS

TEST EXAMPLES: ABRASION TESTING DETERMINES THE ABILITY OF A FABRIC TO WITHSTAND FRICTION AND ALLOWS FOR A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRODUCTS DURABILITY.



MACHINES: RUB TESTER

TEST EXAMPLES: TEST THE COLOR FASTNESS TO-AND-FROM RUBBING OF LEATHER, PU, AND PVC.



**“YOU GET WHAT YOU INSPECT,
NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT”.**

- RON WANER

*ASHLEY'S UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE IS DESIGNED AND LABELED TO COMPLY WITH CALIFORNIA'S TB 117-2013, AND WE ARE COMMITTED TO DESIGNING OUR UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE WITH THE GOAL OF MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF TB-117-2013 WITHOUT THE USE OF FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS. TO THAT END, ASHLEY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT AFTER WORKING CLOSELY WITH OUR SUPPLY CHAIN, UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE MANUFACTURED BY OR FOR US AS OF JANUARY 1, 2015, DOES NOT USE FLAME RETARDANT CHEMICALS. IN ADDITION, ALL UPHOLSTERED PRODUCTS THAT HAVE AN SB-1019 LABEL WERE MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2015.

Upholstery Testing

We emphasize product testing and quality control more than any other furniture company.



We start at the beginning. Our world wide testing labs continually perform a variety of tests on our raw materials to ensure the quality of the "building blocks" we use to manufacture our furniture. We perform rigorous scientific analysis on existing and potential materials to make sure we are always on the cutting edge of technology. We also continually test our systems and processes to assure our construction and assembly methods meet our stringent specifications. Finished products are subjected to critical evaluations. We have state-of-the-art equipment that is used to evaluate and monitor materials and products for durability, appearance, feel (hand) and overall performance. These analyses guide us to use the materials that best match the needs of our customers.



Ashley designers have created the most innovative designs in the furniture industry.



Field Inspection
Inspection of leather in Italy.

- Our leather goes through stringent inspections at the supplier and at our cutting facilities. Some of these tests include the following:
- Colorfastness to crocking (wet & dry)
- Colorfastness to rubbing (wet, dry, and perspiration)
- Tensile and Elongation testing
- Tear test
- Cold crack resistance
- Finish Adhesion
- Blocking
- Colorfastness to migration
- Colorfastness to water spotting



Bouncing Test
Evaluates cushion durability, frame integrity and seat deck durability.

- This test consists of many variations, and is used to evaluate cushion and fiber durability, frame integrity, seat-deck durability, etc.
- Weights are dropped onto the materials for cumulative cycles.



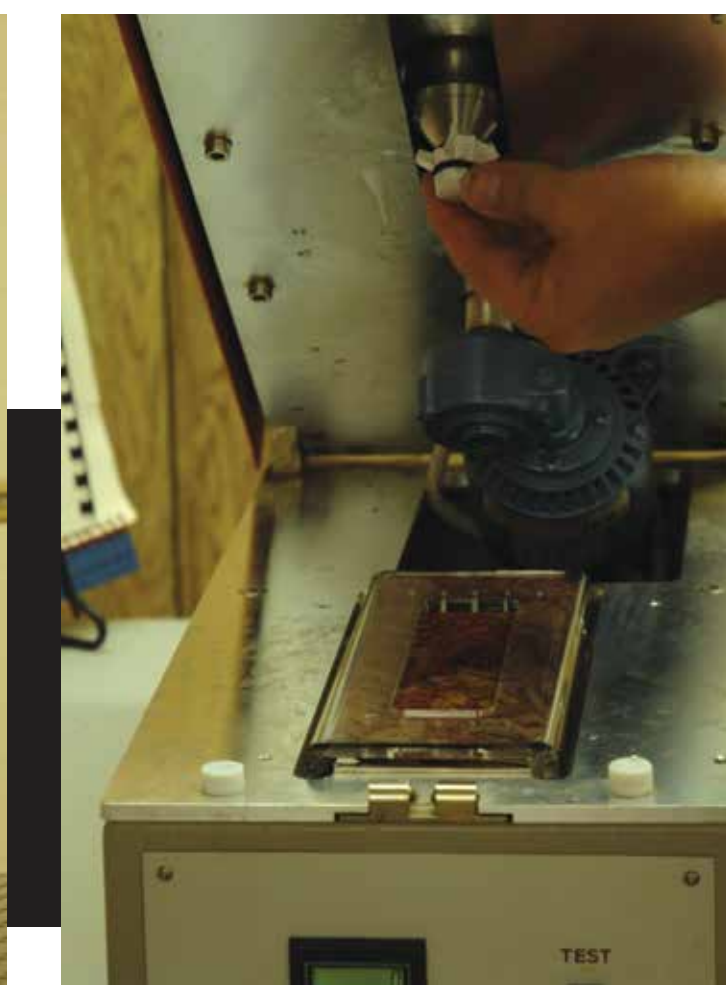
Seat Spring Compression/Firmness

- Determines compression of seat and back springs.
- Ashley recognizes the springs to be an integral part of the comfort of the entire seating foundation, and has set up testing parameters to monitor the springs attributes against our standards.



Recliner Spring Tensile Test

- Determines force to pull recliner springs.
- This test ensures consistency between motion furniture by ensuring the springs are not too weak or too firm for opening and closing the recliners.



Crockmeter

- Determines colorfastness when rubbed.
- This test determines the colorfastness of covers by applying wet and dry rubs.

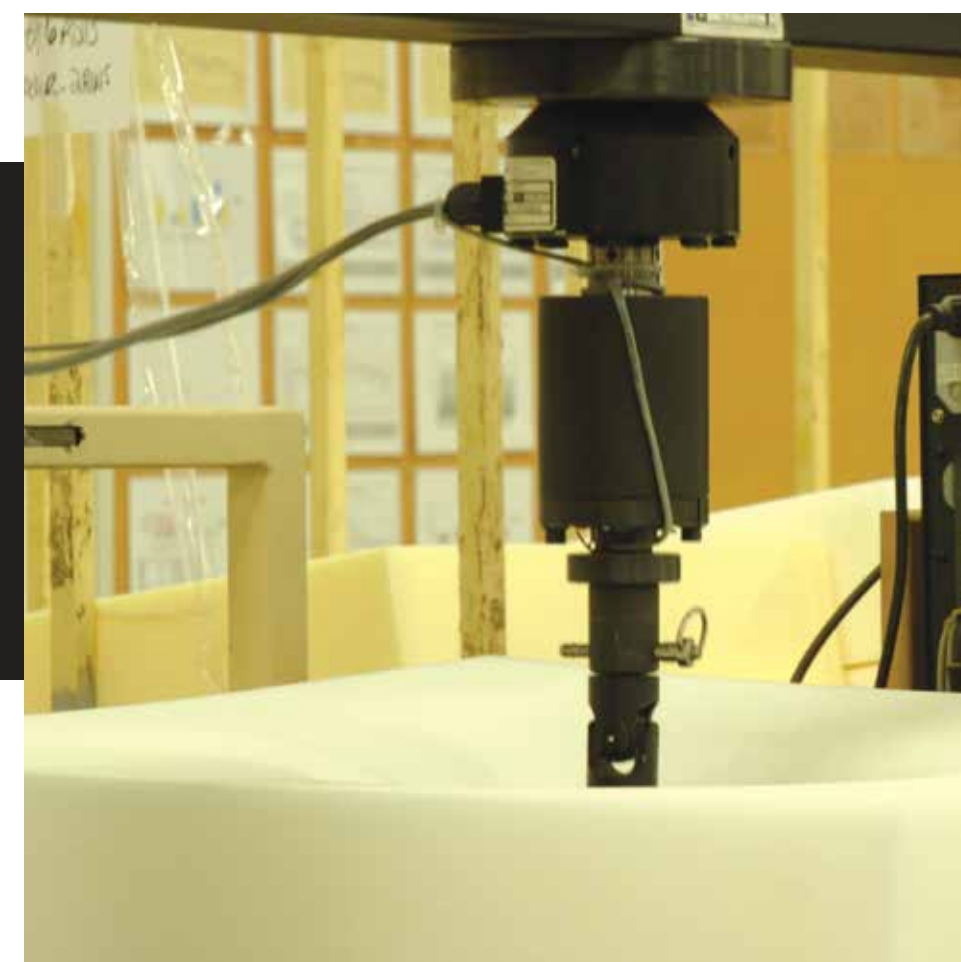
Continuous Testing

We ensure top quality to our consumers by testing our own products.



Cushion/Fiber Density
Measures density of the cushion/fiber.

- These tests ensure durability of filling materials by ensuring that cushion and fiber densities are within specifications.
- Density is a measure of how much active ingredients (versus air) are in a cushion.
- Our vendors know we expect consistency and durability. To get it, Ashley inspects its pours of foam and batches of fiber to find the right amount of the correct materials in its furniture products.



Cushion Firmness
Determines compression/firmness of the cushion.

- This test ensures consistency and quality of the cushion by ensuring the cushion is not too soft or too firm.
- Ashley believes in a "Just Right" feel for our cushions. Our Design department chooses a specific grade of "Firmness" from 4 different choices, and then matches it with the rest of the seating system. Ashley tests foam pours seeking correctness and low-variability in consistency. After a break-in period of use, the cushion will soften slightly.



Fiber Resilience/Durability
Determines loft and resiliency of cushion fiber.

- This test ensures long-term durability by evaluating the ability for loose polyester fiber to recover its loft after being crushed through use.
- Ashley performs resilience and durability testing of all of our fiber types. We use benchmark tests in an effort to find materials that are likely to provide minimal loss after repeated test cycles.



Break/Bend Strength Tester

- Determines strength at various times (wood, structural steel, floor rails).
- This device subjects materials to concentrated force.
- This test consists of many variations, and is used to evaluate...
 - (1) Break strengths for all types of wood materials, fasteners and glue.
 - (2) Bend strengths for metal rails and structural steel.



Abrasion Tester

- Determines cover material abrasion resistance.
- We use these tests to find fabrics that are likely to provide long-term durability.
 - Ashley follows AHFA* and ASTM** testing procedures by performing Abrasion tests to both directions of our fabrics. This test rubs the face of the fabric against a wire screen for thousands of cycles.



Physical Properties Tester

- Tests properties of various materials (seam, fabric and tear strength).
- Ashley follows AHFA* and ASTM** testing procedures by performing tensile tests, seam breakage tests, elongation tests, and tear tests to both directions of our fabrics. It is very effective in showing if a fabric has weaknesses in physical strength that would become apparent during assembly or during use by the customer.



Dynamic Seam Fatigue
Determines resistance to seam separation.

- We test our sewn seams to improve the quality consistency of our products.
- Ashley follows AHFA* and ASTM** testing procedures by performing Dynamic Seam Fatigue Testing to all direction combinations (Warp/Warp, Fill/Fill, and Warp/Fill). This test fatigues the seams by dropping a calibrated weight thousands of times.

*AHFA (American Home Furnishings Alliance)

**ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)

quality testing

upholstery
stationary
motion
recliners



We test our sewn seams to improve the quality consistency of our products.



Tests properties of various materials (seam, fabric and tear strength)



We use these tests to find fabrics that are likely to provide long-term durability.

Quality testing to assure the finest products reach your home.

State-of-the-art worldwide physical testing labs allow us to continually analyze the quality of our raw materials, construction methods and finished products.

- Cushion Density
- Cushion Firmness
- Fiber Resilience and Durability
- Break/Bend Strength
- Abrasion
- Dynamic Seam Fatigue
- Seat Spring Compression and Firmness
- Recliner Spring Tensile

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