To a prospective church chair purchaser:

Purchasing the right church chair for your facility can be a daunting task. This seating will be a legacy that you and your committee will leave to your church so the decision needs to be an educated one!

To that end, ChurchPartner has prepared a list of frequently asked questions that may come up during your evaluation. These questions are the result of many customers' needs and can be a guide for any church chair purchase not just our chair! If you have others, please do not hesitate to contact us.

1) How durable should a church chair be?

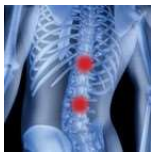
The church chair you purchase should be capable of lasting at least 10 years without noticeable wear to fabric and frames. This means that it should be built well enough to withstand regular stacking and moving without chips and gouges to the frame as well as no rub spots on the fabric that would potentially wear through during that time. It should not change appearance over time due to collapsed foam, wrinkled fabric or bent metal. Our chairs offer a lifetime warranty on the frame and a ten year warranty on the foam and fabric.

2) What is foam density and how do I know when it is correct?

Foam density determines both comfort and durability. Density is measured as pounds per cubic foot typically determine the softness or firmness of the seat and back cushions. While comfort is a subjective idea, durability is not. Foam should have a minimum of 5 years before breakdown and preferably 10 years. Higher density does not necessarily mean high durability.

a.) **The SS7701-HZ** has been engineered with the highest quality pure virgin polyurethane foam with a multi-density approach.

- **Seat foam includes 3" dual density foam: 2.5" of 2.02 lb. foam over .5" of 2.4 lb. foam allowing a soft yet firm seat.**
- **Two different density foams are combined to create a comfortable seat.**
- **10 Year Warranty**



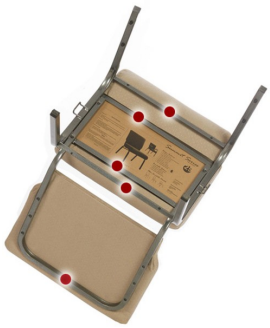
- **Seat back has 1.5" of 1.28 lb. foam with an additional .5" at the lumbar point to provide additional back support.**
- **10 Year Warranty**

b.) The SS7701-X has been engineered using Cold Cured Foam and has a 15 Year Warranty.

- **Two Part Polyurethane Components.**
- **Pre-measured components are poured into the mold cavity and pressurized.**
- **Consistent density throughout the cushion.**
- **Cushions are cured for 48 hours before assembly.**
- **Cells inside the cushion are more defined.**
- **Moisture resistant outer seal.**
- **Regains shape almost immediately.**
- **15 Year Warranty**

3) What factors should I look for in a well-constructed frame?

Frame construction is critical to a chair's durability. A steel frame should manage both for and aft stress as well as lateral stress. This means checking for support members that span front to back – typically front to back legs created from one piece of steel bent to become both front and rear leg, and lateral support – typically one, preferably two "stringers" or cross-members, welded to front and rear legs. Steel is measured by gauge with the lower gauge actually being heaver steel.
Typically a well-built chair has an 18 gauge frame. A frame is only as strong and rigid as its welds. Look for multiple spot welds securing stringers legs and backs to legs. Our SS7701 adds U-bracing across the back of the chair providing maximum rigidity. Most tubular frames are capped on the back. This adds torque or flex to the chair that stresses welds. Accept nothing less than 1" square tubular frame on the legs and undercarriage and
¾" square tubular on the back support. This can severely affect the overall rigidity and load bearing nature of the pew chair.



5 Cross Members

Mandrel Bends
18 gauge Steel
1" Steel – Legs
¾" Steel - Back

Finally, and of great importance, check how seats and backs are secured to the frame. A common method is to use wood screws to attach seats and backs. Over time, this will result in loosened backs and seats and stripped screws. Well-constructed chairs feature what is called T-nut construction. This method has screws attached to a metal t-nut imbedded into the wood seat and back. This allows for metal-to-metal tightening of the screws creating a more secure attachment that cannot possibly be stripped out of wood. This is an important feature of our SS7701!

StaFast "T-nuts" are used to attach the seat / back to the frame, providing superior holding power.

4) What type of internal seat and back support is best in a pew chair?

Due to the fabric finish on church seating the composition of what is used to support the seat and back of a pew chair can be a mystery. Most support is some type of wood while some manufacturers have gone to mesh seating. Mesh is advertised as a comfort and durability factor, but may actually be a way of reducing costs associated with quality and higher density foam. Mesh can break down over time resulting in seat sag. Ideally, the manufacturer has used plywood composite for both seat and back. Plywood is relatively light, strong and flexible, giving the chair what it needs to be moved, stacked and, most importantly, supportive of weight. This plywood should be at least 3/8' to ½" in thickness for support and weight factors. Avoid particleboard cores or thin plywood often used by manufacturers to keep the cost down. Ultimately these will break and need replacement as pew seating is typically moved and used more frequently than other flexible seating.

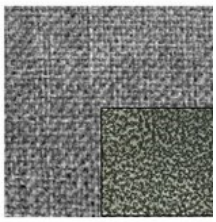
Superior plywood is used on all chairs. The seat features a 5/8" thick and the back is ½" for extra support.

5) What should we know about fabric?

Critical to the beauty of the chair, fabric becomes a key consideration regarding both composition and durability. The church chair industry has followed the lead of pew manufacturers by using high quality open weave fabrics as a primary choice on most chairs. Solid colors are generally considered a better selection over patterns due to the desire to blend well with multiple color schemes found in sanctuaries.
Durability is measured by a fabric's abrasion or rub factor measured in double rubs. In lay terms this is a measurement of how many times the fabric is rubbed by a 100 lb. bag of sand before the fabric shows evidence of wear. Fabrics used on pew chairs are considered high quality if the rub factor is no lower than 50,000 double rubs and generally in the 100,000 to 250,000 range. Our SS7701 rates at 122,000 double rubs minimum.
Another major factor is clean-ability. This is determined by the composition of the fabric. Most fabrics in general use are polyolefins or olefin. The advantage of polyolefin is that it is flexible yet retains its original shape, is lightweight, does not absorb water therefore dries quickly, is resistant to chemicals, and thus staining and can be easily cleaned with soap and water, and retains its color well in sunlight.

AW 05 - Dark Blue / Silvervein

AW 16 - Maroon / Silvervein



AW 19 - Charcoal / Silvervein

AW 21 - Black / Silvervein

AW 101 - Mixed Tan / Antique Brown

AW 29 - Espresso / Textured Black

These are the Comfort Tek Seating Stocked Fabric and Frame combinations for the standard back chairs.

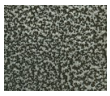
Available for quick delivery.

6) What is meant by ganging?

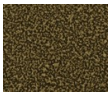
Ganging is simply the industry term for linking chairs together primarily to maintain rows easily. California has recently enacted legislation directed toward dealers and new facilities requiring ganging where earthquakes are possible. This was done to minimize damage associated with chairs that move about during an earthquake. Gangs are either optional or come standard on church seating. The SS7701 is offered with this as standard equipment.

7) What type of frame finish should we consider?

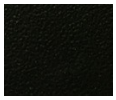
Metal frame finishes have changed dramatically in the last few years. Previously, most frames were either chromed or painted. With the advent of polyurethane, a wide variety of both color and texture has been introduced that provide a much more durable finish than simple paint. Key among these has been the advent of veined finishes such as silver vein and gold vein (antique brown). In addition to chip resistance, these finishes have a metallic look that actually masks chips when they happen keeping the look newer longer. Other popular finishes include wrinkle and texture or Tex finishes (textured black). All of these offer the added advantage of masking fingerprints, something chrome and standard gloss painted surfaces do not offer.



Silvervein



Antique Brown



Textured Black

8) What is the best way to store and move pew chairs?

Weighing in around 20 lbs. church chairs are often difficult to move by using a standard chair cart. Generally, the best and most efficient way to move church chairs is to first stack them to 7 or 8 high and use a chair mover or truck to lift the rear feet of the chairs and tip the stack rearward. This balances the stack onto two wheels and allows it to easily be transported and placed wherever storage exists. It also minimizes the number of carts needed. Usually a couple of people dedicated to moving chairs and most people dedicated to stacking chairs can make short order of 100-200 chairs! ChurchPartner offers the SW22 Chair Dolly as an excellent mover specifically designed for this task.

An important feature of any good church chair is how much the fabric touches or rubs against any part of the metal frame. If the frame rubs the side of the seat fabric when it is stacked and unstacked, it is much more likely to accelerate wear at that point. A well-made church chair will not rub at that point.

The SW22 Dolly moves stacks of chairs easily.

9) What options are available that would meet my church's needs?

Most manufacturers offer options to accommodate for your specific church needs. These include sewn on card holders on the chair back, book storage that also attaches to the back of the chair, under seat book storage either permanently welded or, ideally removable from the chair. Ganging may be optional or standard.

Hanging Bookrack.

5" Depth, Access from front and back. Must be removed before stacking chairs. Dimensions: 18" W x 16" D

Stacking Bookrack

3" Depth, Ideal when stacking is required. Access from back only. Includes communion cup holder. Dimensions: 18" W x 16" D

Card and Pencil Holder

Available to add to most chairs, the plastic card and pencil holder offers a strong, versatile option for back of chair storage.

Card, Pencil and Communion Cup Holder

This version comes complete with 2 communion cup holders mounted on either side of the pocket.

Attachable Kneeler

Extends to a max of 13", which provides space for a kneeling worshipper.

Nickel Glides

Glides designed for easier gliding on carpet.

Fabric Book Pouch

The book pouch is sewn with a heavy duty elastic. Dimensions: 18" W x 6" H

10) Customization

Chairs may also be offered with a variety of back styles along with either enclosed or exposed back (showing steel support) depending the look and how much a church wishes to spend – closed back chairs tend to cost more that open backed chairs. Custom chairs require a 12-16 week lead time.

Standard Back

Our original style chair with a classic fully padded back, complete with lumbar support and boundary free comfort.

Cutaway Back

A stylized version for a striking aesthetic look. The Cutaway back provides a deeper seat, and a pronounced lumbar effect.

Crown Back

No more straight flat lines, the Crown Back will provide a wave effect to the tops of your rows of seating.

Notched Back

Small differences make a big impact. The Notched Back uses styled corners to add a bit of flair to the top of the chair.

Enclosed Back

The back is completely enclosed with fabric.

Comfort Back

The name says is all! Heighten the luxury with additional foam to create radial surround comfort.

Tufting

The image of comfort, a tuft on the back of the chair adds a level of softness to the perceived comfort of the chair.

Fabric Card Pocket

Sewn card pocket is ideal for donation envelopes, welcome cards, communion cards, visitation requests. Dimensions: 5 ½" W x 6" H

Cold Cured Foam

The cold cured foam (CCF) seat cushion adds a level of comfort unsurpassed by other seat foams. It also prevents water and other liquids from penetrating the cushion.

11) How much should I spend on a well-made church chair?

As you complete your research you will find a wide range of pricing for church seating. Some are as low as $35.00 per chair – and usually you get what you pay for. These chairs are poorly made and will not last long enough, nor sit comfortably enough to merit the savings.

A good value on a quality church chair will likely cost between $45.00 and $80.00 depending on quantity. Some options may raise this price to $50.00 to $95.00, but rarely higher than this.

At one time, consideration of an off shore chair would have been a mistake due to quality issues as well as replacement parts. This is no longer the issue as many manufacturers have representatives on premises in other countries supervising and maintaining product quality and consistency. They likewise assure that those people involved in the process are being paid and treated fairly and that no child labor is being employed. That being said, ask questions of your prospective dealer to confirm this with them!

Comfort Back 7701-20-HZ	Designer Back 7701-20-X	Comfort Back (Exposed)	Comfort Back with Arms
Width: 20” Depth: 24” Height: 34 ½” Weight: 20 lbs.	Width: 20” Depth: 24” Height: 34 ½” Weight: 20 lbs.	Standard back on all models	Arms are available on all models – upcharge.