

Herman Miller

Aeron FAQ



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Questions and Answers

What is the difference between the BK and BLX finish on the base?

BLX refers to the premium, ultra-black matte finish on the new Onyx painted die cast components. BK is an injection molding component that is consistent with other Herman Miller branded products under the same finish name.

How did we decide on the name Onyx for this finish?

Our color suggestion refers to the stone of the same name, often shown as a sleek black color. This name has a number of points in its favor: it's well-known as the color black, the SKU code is BLX, and it falls in line with the other elemental names for Aeron: Mineral, Carbon, and Graphite.

Is the matte finish an aesthetic choice or a reflection of the quality of materials used?

Onyx boldly updates Aeron for a high-contrast appearance that instantly stands out. The dramatic, ultra-matte black shade with matte texture was influenced by current design trends and moves our pioneering chair forward, with ocean-bound plastic incorporated into the tilt cover and frame. When incorporating ocean-bound plastic material, it's much easier to include more into a darker color, which is why Onyx contains the highest amount of OBP.

Why is the cylinder black on the Onyx version?

A black cylinder shaft was chosen to visually harmonize with the rest of the chair. Soon, all Aeron's will have this same black cylinder.

How does this ultra-black matte compare to the Graphite Aeron I'm acquainted with now?

The Aeron Onyx chair is a deeper, more matte shade of black, compared to Graphite's distinct dark grey. It also includes the addition of 2.5 lbs of Ocean-bound plastic.

What is the difference between the original Aeron gaming and Aeron Onyx?

The Aeron Onyx chair is a deeper, more matte shade of black. It also includes the addition of 2.5 lbs of Ocean-bound plastic.

What type of ocean-bound plastic material is sorted out and recycled? (HDPE, etc.)

GF Nylon and PET.

Do we know about how long it would be for an OBP bottle to be collected to be a part of chair?

This is difficult to say as it varies depending on the location but typically it could be approximately 6 months.

Why is it only 0.5-2.5 pounds of OBP vs the entire chair? Why are we only adding OBP to specific plastic parts and not all plastic parts?

Every Aeron component that has been updated with Ocean-bound Plastic was able to pass the rigors of testing and visual integrity for a 12-year warranty. We believe that the quest for sustainable solutions is never-ending and we intend to continue to look for new ways to engineer other Aeron components to add even more recycled content in the future.

What is the impact to the environment of adding OBP to Aeron?

We'll divert 150 metric tons* of plastic from the ecosystem, that translates to 15 million plastic water bottles.* (*based on current selling forecasts)

Which parts contain OBP material on Aeron Chair in G1, CRB, VPR and BK?

Onyx chairs will include OBP in the tilt cover and the back frame. Graphite, Carbon and Mineral chairs will include OBP in the tilt cover starting early in 2022.

What is the change in recycled content for Aeron before/after adding OBP?

Aeron is composed of more than 50% recycled material and is up to 90% recyclable based on available facilities.

How do I know if my product contains OBP?

All Onyx chairs will include OBP. The date of manufacture will answer the question for Graphite, Carbon and Mineral. We'll announce the date, most likely early in 2022.

Is there a visual mark or logo on Aeron to indicate OBP?

No, there isn't a visual mark, we've maintained the iconic and simple aesthetic.

Does OBP affect the price of Aeron?

We have not raised the pricing due to adding OBP.

Has the reuse of plastic waste altered the weight/feel at all?

No, Herman Miller has reengineered the Aeron family to integrate ocean-bound plastics, while preserving the same great look, feel, weight and durability you've come to expect from an Aeron Chair.

Who is the target Audience for Aeron?

- Individuals who value ergonomic support and wellbeing.
- Organizations who want to provide a gold standard for all their employees.
- Users who value design and iconic status.
- Organizations who are working towards achieving sustainability goals.

Are there specific applications in the office/customers you think will be more interested in Onyx?

Aeron Onyx works in a variety of dedicated and shared workpoints including Hives, Clubhouses, and Havens.

What are the components of Aeron that typically cannot be recycled at the end of the lifecycle?

Aeron is recyclable up to 91% where recycling facilities are available. However, any component which could not be separated or dis-assembled may not be recycled. Example: foam components, leaf spring, pellicle carrier.

At the end of the life cycle, what are best practices of how the dealers will recycle Aeron?

Please refer to the dis-assembly instruction sheet available at the [Herman Miller website](#). Any component which can be separated or dis-assembled could be recycled. Herman Miller also offers the RePurpose program.

Are there some typical examples of what the recycled content from Aeron can be used in? For example, can the frame be recycled into items we use in everyday life?

Steel and Aluminum are common commodities that can be recycled and used repeatedly. Plastic recycling is a more complex market and will depend on market conditions as some plastic types are also more compatible to recycling than others.

How is Aeron packaged?

In addition to Ocean Bound Plastic content in the product, Herman Miller has also implemented similar content in the film bag that protects every product within its packaging. Meanwhile, Aeron comes in the same standard packaging options of all High Performance Task Seating: Standard, Retail Packaging, and if applicable in the experiential Gaming Pack.

What does it mean when Humanscale says their products are net positive?

The net positive claim for Humanscale products is based on their products being certified under the Living Product Challenge. On site energy harvesting is the main reason Humanscale has net positive products.

What is NextWave?

"NextWave Plastics is a consortium of multinational technology and consumer brands gathering in the spirit of collaboration and transparency to rapidly decrease the volume of plastic litter entering the ocean by developing the first global network of ocean-bound plastic supply chains." <https://www.nextwaveplastics.org/about-us>

Is OBP considered pre consumer or post-consumer when used with our seating?

OBP is a post-consumer plastic.

Are there certificates to certify that the components truly are, or originate from OBP?

Herman Miller suppliers of material use their own 3rd party organizations and processes to ensure the material meets the criteria of ocean bound plastic.

What other products / processes have OBP?

We have implemented or to plan to implement in the near future,

- Returnable totes for chair bases at GSO
- Textiles that are part of the Revenio collection.
- Blown film bags for some of our drawer pedestals
- Blown film bags for some of our chair lines
- Utility tray for Tu Pedestals
- Plastic components for Sayl chairs made in the UK
- Plastic components for OE1 Storage Trolley

How did Herman Miller get involved with NextWave?

Dell originally contacted Herman Miller to determine if we were interested in joining them and other like-minded organizations to form NextWave.

When referring to pre-consumer and post-consumer recycled content, please help explain the difference between the two.

Post-Industrial (Pre-Consumer): Diverted from the waste stream during the manufacturing process. Excluded is reutilization of materials such as rework, regrind, or scrap generated in a process and capable of being reclaimed within the same process that generated it.

Post-Consumer: Generated by households, or by commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product, which can no longer be used for its intended purpose. This includes return of materials from the distribution chain.

What is a circular economy?

Circular economy focuses on designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.

What is carbon footprint and what does it mean to me?

In terms of a product, a carbon footprint is the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions that are produced or consumed during the life cycle of a product.

The carbon footprint values help consumers understand the environmental impacts associated with the products and help make conscious buying decisions. [Ecomedes](#) has the latest information for products that have carbon footprint values.

I see that Aeron is already made with 30% PET, does this new model increase that percentage or does the innovation lie in the sourcing of ocean-bound plastic?

No additional PET was added to the product, it is purely the source of inbound material innovation.

How does the plastic bottle material compare to the Aeron's original material. What kinds of compensation / trade-offs if any did they have to do?

Ocean Bound Material that has been repurposed into usable resins did pose some performance, color acuity, and manufacturability issues to resolve. Some examples include modifying injection molding tools to accommodate the change in shrink rate of the recycled content and extensive testing to ensure our customers are receiving the same level of performance as their current Aeron that they have grown to expect.

Is there a spec sheet with materials used in the new chairs in addition to OBP?

EPD in [Ecomedes](#) contains all material information.

Do we have anything prepared that explains the % of plastic in the chair that will be OBP for ONYX and other colorways?

The large variety of specification options on the Aeron chair result in a wide range of plastic content. The percentage of plastic, by weight, that contains OBP content can range as high as 35%, depending on the color, size, and options you specify.

Are there updated EPDs which confirm the improved % of recycled and recyclable content?

EPD's will be updated in a few weeks, approximately October.