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The Ultimate Guide to

HDPE Plastic Lockers for Schools



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School lockers have a serious responsibility for high schools in terms of functionality, design, and durability. Used every day by students, lockers need to be able to stand up to the test of time and work properly for students to experience convenience when storing and retrieving their supplies.

But along with functionality and design, lockers have a responsibility to maintain well-being throughout a school building. Some locker materials on the market will rust and corrode over time, harbor mold and mildew growth, and even reduce the air quality in your building. **HDPE plastic material excels in all four of these categories.**

HDPE plastic is a unique locker material that benefits students in multiple ways while also saving money and time for school supervisors and facility managers. And because HDPE plastic is a lesser-known material, our Ultimate Guide to HDPE Plastic Lockers for Schools will help you to learn more about the material so you can make the right choice for your school.

Our guide will help you to understand the beneficial aspects of HDPE plastic lockers, including:

- **Advantages against other locker materials**
- **Design capabilities**
- **Eco-friendly certifications**

You'll be an HDPE plastic expert by the time you're through with our guide and be able to understand why it's the best locker material choice for your school.

We begin our guide with some comparisons between HDPE plastic lockers and leading material choices.



HDPE Plastic vs. Metal Lockers

Metal generally is the material of choice for school lockers because it's been used for decades. However, **metal lockers are outdated and can't combat modern-day harmful factors.**

Architects commonly view metal lockers as a low-cost, standardized product, but facility managers and school supervisors should realize that the cost benefit is limited to the initial purchase, and the standardization aspect is actually regressive to the overall design. The metal locker disadvantages you'll find below are worrisome, but they'll never harm your school if you begin to reap the benefits of HDPE plastic lockers.

Metal Locker Disadvantages

- Susceptible to dents and scratches
- Scratches show, requiring repainting
- Frequently rust and corrode
- Low resistance to graffiti, requiring removal
- High future maintenance costs

HDPE Plastic Locker Advantages

- Resist dents and scratches
- Solid color throughout, so won't require painting
- Resist rust and corrosion
- Graffiti cleaning product for easy removal
- Low future maintenance costs

The time-consuming issues with metal lockers aren't only pesky and annoying but will also result in unwanted future costs. You can avoid these issues and save money if you choose HDPE plastic lockers.



HDPE Plastic vs. Wood Lockers

Schools often choose wood lockers when they want a higher-end design. While they have an elegant finish, wood lockers are not the ideal choice for schools. You'll find that many of the disadvantages of wood lockers stem from sanitation and health issues, which are major factors to consider for your school.

Wood Locker Disadvantages

- Susceptible to damage from direct impact
- Require repainting or refinishing to keep a high-end appeal
- Highly porous, causing odor retention and mold or mildew growth
- High future maintenance costs

HDPE Plastic Locker Advantages

- Resist impacts
- Solid color throughout that doesn't require repainting or refinishing to maintain design
- Impermeable to moisture, thus resistant to odors, mold, and mildew
- Low future maintenance costs

The mold and mildew growth associated with wood lockers creates a harmful environment for students. It results in serious health implications if inhaled too frequently, plus it will end up costing you a small fortune to eliminate. Add this maintenance cost to refinishing, and you'll spend a lot on locker maintenance.

Fortunately, you can eliminate the disadvantages of wood lockers when you choose HDPE plastic.



Sustainability Matters

When you select lockers for your school, you can take significant steps to create a greener campus, depending on your choices. While most school supervisors or facility managers overlook sustainability regarding locker materials, choosing an eco-friendly option will provide major benefits.

HDPE plastic lockers are proven to have positive, eco-friendly benefits for schools.

Common locker materials, such as metal and wood, have negative environmental implications, unlike HDPE plastic. A sustainable school environment is a healthy school environment, and HDPE plastic lockers promote this in multiple ways.

- **Post-consumer materials:** HDPE plastic is made from pre-consumer materials, so when you use it in your school locker rooms, you promote the recycling process. And you can further the cycle because HDPE plastic lockers are 100% recyclable, so you can dispose of them efficiently and help reduce industrial waste.
- **Improved air quality:** HDPE plastic lockers won't need to be repainted, which reduces the amount of harmful chemicals that can impact the air quality in your hallways. Frequent repainting, which is required with wood and metal lockers, releases VOC emissions, which can be harmful for students to breathe. The less you repaint, the better the air quality in your school.
- **LEED certification:** This will result in your school being recognized as a certified green building. Numerous aspects factor into the certification achievement, including the design and construction of your building. It's a major accomplishment for a school to receive this certification, and you can take a step in the right direction by choosing HDPE plastic lockers, as HDPE plastic is a recognized material by LEED that will earn your school points toward the certification.



For any school, sustainability matters in many ways. Eco-friendly choices in construction and design help to reduce industrial waste, improve air quality, set a good example for students, and receive national recognition. You can move in the right direction by selecting HDPE plastic lockers.

Designing the Right Lockers for Your School

Along with durability, sanitation, and low future maintenance costs, you want to make sure that the lockers you choose actually look good in your school. Design appeal isn't only important for keeping your students happy with their surroundings, but it's also an influential factor for prospective students or visitors to your school. You don't want to create a negative impression based on your locker selection.

With HDPE plastic lockers, you'll benefit from a solid color throughout that holds up and looks great over time. But there are many other design factors that your school can benefit from when selecting HDPE plastic:

- **HDPE plastic locker color selection:** No matter what are the colors of your schools, HDPE plastic has a wide variety of available colors that you can choose from and can even do custom colors to match a specific school color.
- **Noise reduction:** The resounding slam of a metal locker is the soundtrack for many school day memories, but new emphasis on acoustical control in the school environment could incentivize designers to minimize the noise pollution created at the locker. Recent tests measured the noise level created by the normal operation of a metal locker at 81 decibels.



To put that into context, the American Tinnitus Association identified an alarm clock (2 feet away) as having a sound level of 80 decibels. Alternatively, the noise level created by the normal operation of an HDPE locker was measured at just over 74 decibels. This noise level is considered similar to that created by a washing machine.


- **Multiple accessory options:** When it comes to selecting your school lockers, HDPE plastic provides many choices and configurations in terms of accessories. You can choose from different shelving options, coat hooks, tiers, dimensions, fillers, bases, tops, trims, and locks, making it easy for your school lockers to be as functional and convenient as possible for your students.

GREENGUARD Certification

One of the most important ways that HDPE plastic lockers benefit your school is how they ensure that your school is GREENGUARD certified. HDPE plastic lockers have been evaluated and approved by the GREENGUARD Gold Certification Program, which examines numerous factors that determine how your locker materials impact your school environment.

The GREENGUARD certification program dives deep into the production and emissions of a certain material to make sure that it's suitable for environments with young children. When you choose a material that's GREENGUARD Gold Certified, it means that it's been tested for:

- Strict indoor air quality emissions, recognizing that children breathe faster than adults and can receive a higher dose of pollution based on their body weight

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- Dramatic reductions in volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions
 - Strict limits of polyvinylchloride (PVC) emissions, which can cause reproductive and developmental disorders, asthma, and allergies
 - Overall healthy usage in areas where young children spend large amounts of time

HDPE plastic lockers are GREENGUARD Gold Certified, so by selecting this material during your locker construction, you can create a proven healthy hallway environment for your students. Making sure that your students are safe is the most important factor to consider when choosing a new product.

Summary

Across the board, HDPE plastic lockers provide significant advantages for everyone in a school. While remaining a lesser-known locker material, through our guide, you can now see how HDPE plastic lockers are the superior choice. Your school will experience:

- **Fresh locker designs that benefit students in multiple ways**
- **Lockers with much lower future costs compared to wood and metal lockers**
- **Environmentally friendly material that improves air quality and sets a respectable example**
- **Proven to create a healthy environment for the kids who interact with them**

For the best locker material, choose HDPE plastic and start reaping the monetary, eco-friendly, and sanitary benefits like the many other schools that have made the switch.

Contact

Scranton Products

801 East Corey Street
Scranton, PA 18505
ScrantonProducts.com