

ARDENT COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

"Keep it simple. Just make a really good chair." — Ed Comiskey, founder

Ardent began with that simple statement. Ed created Ardent with a lot of previous industry experience, and knew that many manufacturers ran into problems when they made things too complex and when they cut corners in the quality of what they were designing and building.

The original ARDENT chair was predicated on the knowledge that there was a need for a better type of office seating in a rapidly changing workplace. Ed would never claim he invented the office chair or the “ergonomic office chair”. What he would say is that he took a real good look at all of the other chairs that were on the market and where they succeeded and failed. In doing this, he was able to incorporate the best elements, while avoiding the pitfalls. He also took into consideration the big changes that were taking place in the modern office.

Computers were making their way into businesses and institutions alike. Support staff was spending way more hours in front of a desk and monitor screen. Many managers and executives were no longer content with the big cushy chair that didn’t work and that was literally a pain in the neck. Some still wanted one as a status symbol, but when no one was looking, they would still wheel out their secretary’s chair to work on, late into the night.

The time had come for a better chair. Ed knew that the one that he had in mind would be a really good chair... and the chair to build a new company around... which is where the quality part came in.

Ed knew that to really impact the market, he couldn’t just design a cool-looking chair. He needed to design and build a chair with function and quality incorporated into every part of the chair. The Model 8600 did just that. In short, it worked... and it lasted. In fact it’s still our #1 chair... almost thirty years later!

The Legacy (8600) Series has grown to include quite a few related models, but at its core, it’s still ONE REALLY GOOD CHAIR.

We still operate from that same premise today. Whenever we’re faced with a decision about a design specification, we always opt for the better or the best, not just the good or the good enough. It invariably costs a little more, but it’s worth it.

That's why we use...

- An eight-ply seat pan and seven-ply back-pan from molded hardwood Made in Canada and United States
- 2 ½" thick high-density molded polyurethane foam seat cushions made by Realform in Toronto instead of 1 ½" thick low-density slab foam. Or, bond two pieces of cheap foam together and call it "DUAL DENSITY", really?
- One of the best hooded casters (55mm.) available for carpet (standard) and tile (hard surfaces), instead of a smaller, less reliable caster. This provides you with years of trouble-free mobility, it's the only thing touching the ground, so they better work great!. Note: locking casters or glides are also available.
- A high-capacity pneumatic gas cylinder with a proven record of reliability and strength. It acts as a shock-absorber and allows for instantaneous height adjustment. Optional 700 lbs capacity lift available
- A 2" diameter, high gauge steel support column (the largest of any chair in its class) for maximum stability and strength.
- A Northfield mechanism, comprised of high-grade components and moving parts, that provides the highest level of performance, function and adjustment while operating to our specifications.
- A stronger, 24" reinforced-nylon 5-prong base from Northfield for maximum durability and stability.
- High-grade machine screws and steel t-nut fasteners for a secure-fast connection.
- Steel-reinforced armrest attachments from Northfield, to ensure a lasting connection.
- Custom made by Northfield, high-tensile spring steel back-strap and a welded non-swivel backrest attachment plate to prevent the backrest from failing. Pivoting backrests just don't work!

You might think choosing quality is hard, but we believe it's been the key to our continued success and longevity, as well as that chair's.

Keep it simple. Just make a really good chair. Made in Canada