



# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

OF UHLMANN SONNENSCHIRME GMBH & CO. KG



### *Foreword by the Management*

At Uhlmann, we are aware of our responsibility. That is why we consciously combine sustainability and environmental protection through our 'Made in Germany' quality. We always seek environmentally friendly solutions, both in our innovations and in the further development of our existing products.

Our idea is to significantly reduce CO<sup>2</sup> emissions during production, and our goal is to achieve completely CO<sup>2</sup>-neutral production by 2030. With the adjustments we have already implemented in recent years, we are well on our way to achieving this goal.

Uhlmann is clearly committed to environmental and climate protection.

That is why we support the reforestation of endangered forests, for example, by regularly planting trees. In other projects, we also promote education and understanding of nature among local people and the collection of plastic from the world's oceans.



## *Introduction to the company*

Since its foundation in 1992, Uhlmann has been producing large umbrellas for discerning clients. Using high-quality materials, the large umbrellas are manufactured in rectangular, square and round designs, ranging from 4m<sup>2</sup> to over 78m<sup>2</sup> in the most popular trend colours.

Tailored to your individual needs, we offer flexible solutions with over 80 umbrella sizes in 6 variations. Our extensive range of accessories is sure to impress.

As a supplier to numerous market leaders in large-scale and outdoor catering, we know what matters and are therefore the first choice for private, public and commercial establishments. We manufacture exclusively in Germany to the highest standards of quality, functionality and robustness, offering excellent value for money.

Our production site is located at the following address: Langer Rain 5, 88524 Uttenweiler, Germany

Number of employees: 42



Production facility Uttenweiler

## Products

Our parasols are available in a variety of designs. All our products are manufactured using the highest quality materials, guaranteeing that our parasols will have a long service life.

Customers can choose the features of their giant umbrellas from a wide range of options. Thanks to our customized manufacturing process, we can ensure that our parasols meet our customers' requirements and wishes 100%.

Accessories such as electrical systems, rain gutters, side panels, etc. increase the comfort and versatility of our products.

With our parasols, our customers not only receive an extremely robust product with a long-life expectancy and service life. Thanks to material efficiency and waste avoidance, they also contribute significantly to more environmentally friendly and resource-saving behavior.

To prevent damage, we have strong wind umbrellas in our range for windy locations, which can withstand wind loads of up to 102 km/h as tested in a wind tunnel.

Despite its robustness, the system of our parasols is kept very simple so that repairs or maintenance work can be carried out easily in the event of damage. To do this, the parasols do not necessarily have to be returned to the factory in Germany but can be repaired on site.

All spare parts can be reordered for decades, so that repairs or replacements of individual parts can be carried out at any time without any problems.



# Environmental responsibility

## Energy

We cover our company's energy supply with green electricity, photovoltaics and district heating.

- Since 2025, we have been using exclusively sustainable green electricity. This comes from 100% renewable energies, meaning that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are virtually zero.
- In addition, energy-saving LED lighting is used on all premises.
- Our employees are trained in saving electricity in the company and receive regular instruction. All our workplaces are equipped with daylight.
- Since 2010, our factory has been heated exclusively by district heating from bio-gas plants.

- All employees are also trained in the efficient use of radiators, so we use electricity and heat efficiently here too.

## Vehicle fleet

The company purchased its first electric vehicle in 2019. Since then, two more have been added. Currently, approximately 50% of our vehicle fleet consists of electric vehicles. In the foreseeable future, we would like to convert the majority of our vehicle fleet to sustainable mobility.

## Materials

Our company mainly uses materials from Germany and other European countries. We manufacture most of the components used in our parasols ourselves at our production facility in Uttenweiler.



## Environmental responsibility

### Frame – aluminium

All parasol frames are made from fully recyclable aluminium. This ensures that our products are exceptionally durable. It also means that they are sustainable and environmentally friendly. The raw material we use also consists of 50–70% recycled aluminium.

According to sustainability information from the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (as of July 2020), aluminium recycling accounts for around 30–40% of total usage worldwide. An average of around 15,700 kWh of electrical energy is required to produce one ton of primary aluminium. Recycling, on the other hand, requires only about 5 percent of the energy used in primary production and therefore represents an enormous advantage in terms of resource conservation and efficiency.



### Connecting parts – steel/stainless steel

All connecting parts for the parasols are made of steel or stainless steel. This significantly improves stability and also allows us to use very highly recyclable material. In addition, we deliberately avoid the use of plastic, which becomes porous under the influence of UV rays and wears out much faster.



### Powder coating

All our umbrella frames are powder coated. Due to the very long components and the special requirements this entails, the coating is carried out in neighboring Austria.

The coating of aluminum components is certified by GSB and Qualicoat.

By avoiding the use of solvents and thinners, powder coating is a more environmentally friendly solution than varnishing. Any excess powder used during application can also be recovered. This makes powder coating particularly resource efficient.

Furthermore, powder coating gives the aluminum a high level of corrosion protection and mechanical resilience (impact and scratch resistance), which has a decisive and positive effect on the service life of the parasol.

## Environmental responsibility

### Parts used in the umbrella – brass, steel, aluminum, POM

Most of the parts used in the parasol are made of:  
Brass, steel, stainless steel, aluminum, POM

- Brass, steel, stainless steel and aluminum are all recyclable and therefore extremely environmentally friendly materials.
- A small proportion of the parts used in the parasol are also made of POM (polyacetal). This material has high strength, hardness and rigidity over a wide temperature range. Since our customers can use the umbrella all year round or the umbrella is exposed to temperature fluctuations, temperature resistance and heat resistance are essential to achieve longevity.

### Ground fixing – hot-dip galvanized steel

- The ground fixing for the umbrellas is made exclusively from hot-dip galvanized steel. Galvanization provides active corrosion protection, ensuring that the ground fixing has the same service life as our umbrellas.
- The in-ground sleeve, which is set in concrete, is the most commonly used to secure the umbrella. We also offer other fixings such as base plates, stand frames, concrete cubes, plate stands and custom-made products. The durability and accuracy of fit of the ground fixing is therefore of utmost importance.



## Membranes – FABRIC

### Dickson® Sunacryl fabric

The Sunacryl fabrics presents high effective sun protection. It is durable against wind, weather, luminosity, heat and UV. Due to the solution dyed acryl fiber this fabric is nonfading and tear resistant. With a weight of 290g/m<sup>2</sup>, Sunacryl fabric is best suitable for your giant umbrella and in addition easy to clean thanks to its Cleanguard finish.

The fabric has been tested for pollutants in accordance with Oeko-Tex Standard 100. This Oeko-Tex certificate guarantees that this water-repellent fabric is non-toxic. The underlying laboratory tests confirmed that the fabrics contain no unpleasant odors, carcinogenic or volatile substances or pesticides.

Acrylic fabrics reduce glare and heat penetration by up to 95%. Depending on the color, they block 90-100% of UV rays. This reduces the so-called greenhouse effect. The color and UV resistance complies with UV Standard 801.

Thanks to its high-performance fibers, treatments and weaving processes Dickson® can offer a warranty of up to 10 years for its fabrics. The design and durability of Dickson® fabrics are the result of rigorous production and laboratory testing.



### AIRTEX® CLASSIC fabric

The AIRTEX® classic fabric is perfect for sun protection. This fabric is made of 100% polyester which comes with an acrylic coating and impregnation on the upper side.

The special coating gives AIRTEX® classic a distinctive textile character. AIRTEX® classic has outstanding properties compared to dyed polyester or cotton fabrics:

AIRTEX® classic is literally a lightweight solution for shading. With a total weight of only 200 g/m<sup>2</sup>, this fabric provides excellent sun protection in accordance with UV Standard 801.

### Future alternative

The number of recycled alternative fabrics will increase in the coming years.

One idea is to reuse old acrylic fibers or those left over from the production process and weave them into new textiles.

Replay, for example, is one of the first collections of eco-designed sun protection fabrics. It comprises 20 individual products available in seven Jacquard, eight plain and five striped designs. The typical style of these innovative fabrics breaks new ground in sun protection, offering a collection of original patterns and modern colors.

We are closely monitoring the market for such new developments and are determined to incorporate such innovations into our product range in the near future.

## Packaging

We have successfully reduced the use of plastic in our packaging by approximately 80% and wherever possible, we use sustainable and organic materials, primarily cardboard and wood.

In addition, we recycle around 80% of the cardboard delivered to us for further processing in our packaging. This is used in particular for spare parts such as membranes and for shipping the ground fixings.

A cardboard perforator/shredder was purchased specifically for this purpose. The specific way in which the shredder perforates and cushions the cardboard in a single step transforms it into an environmentally friendly filling and padding material that reliably protects our goods when shipping them around the world.

### Outer packaging

The packaging of our parasols depends on the country of destination. In the European Union, we only use hard cardboard boxes.

For overseas shipments in freight containers, more stable wooden crates are used.

Both types of outer packaging can be reused for storing the parasols or easily recycled.

Until recently, the accessory box, which contains parts such as the hand crank and the top hat, was made with a foam insert. Following a redesign, it is now made of 100% cardboard, which is folded to achieve the desired shape and stability. This eliminates the need for any plastic components.





## Waste disposal

In order to make our waste disposal as environmentally friendly as possible, we introduced strict waste separation several years ago.

Our entire team is aware that each individual can increase recycling rates through their own diligence.

**In our company, we proceed as follows:**

1. Waste avoidance
2. Preparation for reuse
3. Recycling
4. If point 3 is not possible: proper disposal

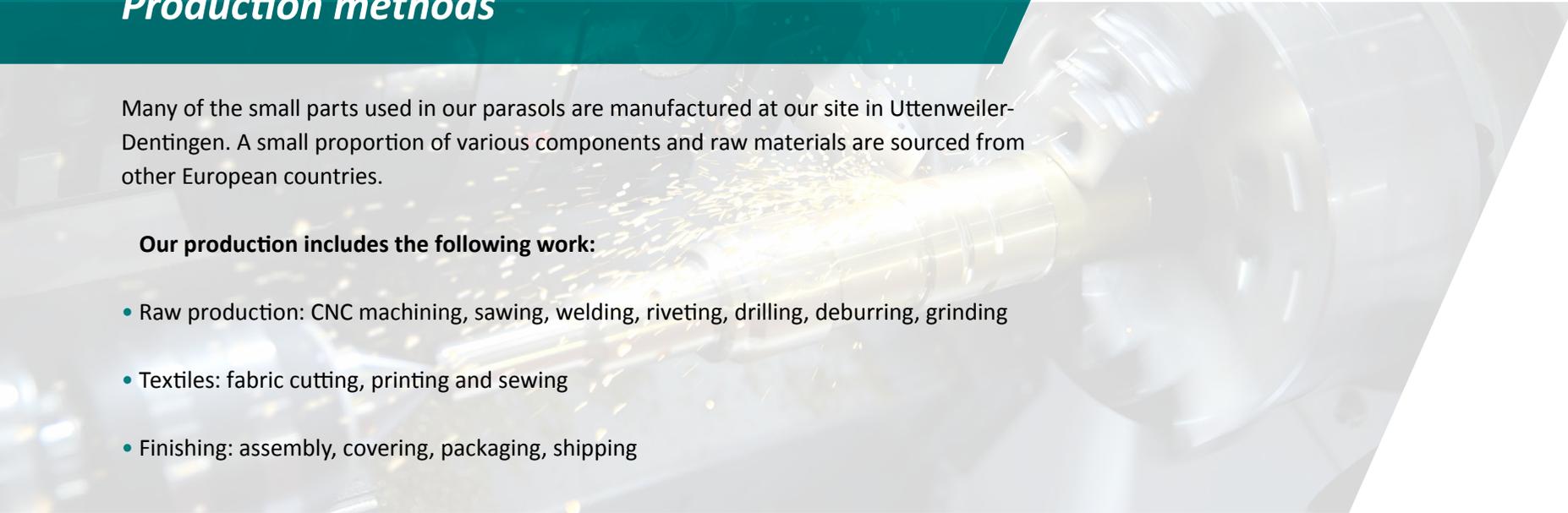


## Production methods

Many of the small parts used in our parasols are manufactured at our site in Uttenweiler-Dentingen. A small proportion of various components and raw materials are sourced from other European countries.

**Our production includes the following work:**

- Raw production: CNC machining, sawing, welding, riveting, drilling, deburring, grinding
- Textiles: fabric cutting, printing and sewing
- Finishing: assembly, covering, packaging, shipping



## Transport-related sustainability information:

We work with the following companies to transport our products:

### *GLS parcel service*

Since October 1, 2019, GLS Germany has been delivering all parcels in a 100 percent climate-neutral manner. This applies to parcels delivered in Germany and also to parcels sent abroad. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by parcel transport and the business activities of GLS Germany are offset annually through a certified project. GLS also invests in further measures.

### *Noerpel Freight Forwarding*

As a freight forwarder, Noerpel pays attention to the following important sustainability features:

- Ecological flow of goods - Environmentally friendly vehicle and traffic planning for short and long distances
- Sustainable delivery - Reduction of emissions through the implementation of sustainable warehouse concepts, building concepts, and operating equipment
- Sustainable supply chains - As a member of IDS, Noerpel has established guidelines for a CO<sub>2</sub> footprint within Germany's largest general cargo cooperation
- Environmentally conscious corporate culture - The topic of sustainability is promoted through internal projects in order to establish environmentally conscious thinking as part of the corporate culture
- Company-wide use of swap bodies: reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20%



## *Transport-related sustainability information:*

### *Alternative transport options*

Of course, we also offer the option of picking up our products at the factory. This can be done by commissioning a regional shipping company or by picking up the goods with your own vehicles.

The option of collection with your own vehicle is particularly popular with German and regional companies that place regular orders.

In these cases, various and multiple orders are collected in a single trip with your own vehicle. The vehicle capacity is fully utilized in these cases, which has the advantage of saving on packaging and allowing delivery and installation directly on the way back from the factory to the end customer.





**If you have any questions about this report,  
please feel free to contact us at:**

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