

Kraftwerks Newsletter July 2023

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Is it Time to Upgrade Your Cleanroom?

Cleanrooms are isolated environments that require strict control over:

- Airborne particles (viable and non-viable)
- Temperature, humidity
- Air pressure, air flow, air motion
- Lighting
- Ingress / egress protocols for personnel

If you have a permanent cleanroom that was installed years ago it might be time for an upgrade. Peeling or spitting paint, shedding, microtears or cracks in the walls or floors, and degrading insulation may be inviting contamination. If you have expanded and added staff, the air quality in the existing environment may have degraded due additional bodies in the space. If you've had any significant changes or growth, you'll want to give your cleanroom a second look.

Also noteworthy, if you are a lab that is subject to USP compounding standards, they were revised in 2022. The effective date is November 1, 2023, just a few short months away. So, if your facility will no longer be compliant, you'll need to make upgrades.

Kraftwerks can help you update an existing cleanroom or help you transition to a modular cleanroom. Modular cleanrooms have advantages. They are constructed from newer, higher quality materials that are super durable.

Modular cleanroom wall panels integrate easily with the stringent equipment for cleanroom requirements, with various ISO-ratings and cleanroom classifications — class 1000 cleanroom(+). Plus, a modular structure can easily be reconfigured or expanded making it a smart, long-term solution.

Kraftwerks understands cleanroom applications. Our engineers carefully consider the physical structure, internal environment, interaction technology, and monitoring systems they require. Contact us for a free quote on upgrading your existing cleanroom or switching to modular.



Kraftwerks Laboratory Workspace Video

The furniture inside a lab is important to its health and well-being. Employees need a workspace that is both comfortable and safe from potential hazards. When choosing furniture, there is a lot to consider:

- Strategic, collaborative layout
- Flexible, functional design
- Maintenance & repair
- Quality & craftsmanship
- Affordability

View our case studies to learn how Kraftwerks has worked with laboratory clients.

[UB Renew Lab](#)
[Pine Pharmaceuticals](#)
[Steuben R&D Lab](#)


Let's Talk Workstations

Choosing the right workstation will directly reflect the workflow and production in your facility. But how do you navigate the field of vendors and the plethora of options out there?

First thing's first. What is the environment the workstation will be in and what will it be used for? Will it be used for biotech or medical assembly, in an R&D laboratory, utilized in a cleanroom, or something else? You'll want to ensure the workstations will match the work being done and are highly functional.

It's important to take a step back and look at things with a big-picture, strategic view. Consider safety. The aisle space between workstations must be enough to accommodate the work zone but allow for smart traffic flow. Be sure there is sufficient circulation space and optimal accessibility. Note the location of supply storage, power sources, vents, and plumbing. And remember to consider the ability of workers to collaborate, as well as the ability of cleaning and maintenance staff to do their jobs.

When choosing workstations, the importance of functionality is obvious, but don't discount how ergonomics factors into that. Ergonomics are more than just making sure workers are comfortable and have good back support when they work.

An ergonomic process requires fewer steps, shorter reaches, less bending, and elimination of non-value movements. Workstations that minimize these movements create a workflow that is both lean and efficient, but also minimizes worker injuries. And that equals lower costs.

And speaking of cost, you'll need to consider some other aspects. The more a workstation will be used, the more higher quality construction, reliability, and durability come into play (and that may mean higher cost). Be sure to also factor in installation, operating, and maintenance costs.

The professionals at Kraftwerks look at all the variables. We've been doing this for a long time, and we have relationships with a variety of vendors. We'll provide a quote that considers your needs and budget, and finds products with the highest value for your application.



"Chair-gonomics"

Ergonomics aren't just important for workstations. An ergonomic chair will further help avoid musculoskeletal and repetitive motion injuries. A well-designed, ergonomic chair considers posture, lumbar support, foot positioning, fatigue, and the reductions in circulation associated with the short- or long-term leaning forward motion that occurs when working.

In a healthcare, pharmaceutical, or laboratory environment, chairs must also be resistant to bacteria, able withstand rigorous cleaning/disinfecting protocols, and may also need to meet rigorous cleanroom and/or ESD standards.

And just as with other furniture, there are a lot of options to consider from the chair's base to its height, the materials it is constructed from, and how it is constructed. Kraftwerks can help you navigate the different options, and we'll help you make the right choice.

Kraftwerks has experience working in healthcare, pharmaceutical, and laboratory environments. We understand the stringent, unique requirements associated with these industries. [Contact us](#) to learn more about our capabilities in these environments.

Additional Resources

[Kraftwerks & Cleanrooms](#)
[Kraftwerks & Workstations](#)
[Kraftwerks & Lab Furniture](#)
[InPlant Cleanrooms Video](#)
[BostonTec Ergonomics Video](#)
[Kewaunee BasikBench Video](#)
[BioFit Vacuum Formed Seating Video](#)


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