urbaniture

Urban Furniture, Redefined.

Climate Material Checklist for Urban Furniture

24 questions to ask before you specify materials for public space

24 questions before a material specification becomes a fixed design decision.

Use this checklist early, when material and design decisions can still be reconsidered. Mark one answer for each question: **Yes**, **No**, **Not sure** or **N/A**. Use the notes line to record an issue, evidence to request or a person responsible. The aim is to identify priorities, not to calculate a score.

PROJECT / SITE _____ DATE _____

PROJECT LEAD / TEAM _____

The checklist helps reveal areas that may need a closer review. It does not replace engineering, testing or site-specific design advice.

01 Heat & Human Comfort

		YES	NO	NOT SURE	N/A
1	Has exposure to direct sun during the most demanding hours been considered? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
2	Have the temperatures of surfaces people may touch been assessed for the intended setting? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
3	Is shading an explicit part of the design assessment rather than an assumption? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	Have different user groups, mobility needs and likely durations of use been considered? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	Have glare and reflected solar radiation from nearby finishes been considered? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐

02 Rainwater & Planting

		YES	NO	NOT SURE	N/A
6	Is it clear where rainwater flows after reaching the furniture and surrounding paving? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
7	Have drainage, ground permeability and nearby tree-root conditions been reviewed? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
8	Where planters have a water-management role, have storage, irrigation and overflow requirements been defined? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
9	Where relevant, has the installation been considered alongside the site's stormwater or sponge-city strategy? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐

03 Embodied Impact

		YES	NO	NOT SURE	N/A
10	Are material-related environmental claims supported by evidence relevant to the proposed product? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
11	Have the components most likely to influence the product's overall environmental footprint been identified? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
12	Has the opportunity to reduce material quantity been considered without undermining service life or usability? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
13	Are carbon indicators, declared units and system boundaries understood, with biogenic carbon treated separately? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐

04 Repair & Circularity

		YES	NO	NOT SURE	N/A
14	Can critical worn or damaged components be replaced without discarding the whole product? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
15	Are spare-part availability, maintenance responsibility and expected service life addressed? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
16	Has the potential to dismantle, relocate, adapt or reuse the product been considered? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐
17	Is there a credible route for component separation and end-of-life treatment? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐

05 Durability & Exposure

		YES	NO	NOT SURE	N/A
18	Have relevant exposure conditions, including moisture, frost, de-icing salt and UV, been identified? Notes / next action	☐	☐	☐	☐

19	Is the expected durability supported by evidence suited to the material and its application? Notes / next action _____	☐	☐	☐	☐
20	Are maintenance needs, access, responsibility and likely effort understood? Notes / next action _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

06 Procurement & Accountability

		YES	NO	NOT SURE	N/A
21	Are relevant sustainability, performance and life-cycle considerations reflected in the project brief? Notes / next action _____	☐	☐	☐	☐
22	Can suppliers substantiate environmental claims for the specific products to be delivered? Notes / next action _____	☐	☐	☐	☐
23	Where a material-origin or sustainability label is required, will it be documented for the delivered product or batch? Notes / next action _____	☐	☐	☐	☐
24	Is responsibility for resolving open material questions assigned before key decisions are fixed? Notes / next action _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

How to use your answers

Not sure is a useful answer. It shows information that has not yet been established.

N/A keeps the checklist relevant for projects without planting, certain material types or specific procurement requirements.

Do not simply count answers. Give priority to questions that affect user safety, essential functionality, long-term maintenance and commitments made in project documentation. Even one unresolved critical issue may justify further assessment.

Material & Climate Review

A focused review of your design, specification or product range. We identify the trade-offs that matter for your site, the open questions behind them, and practical opportunities for improvement before decisions become costly to change.

Book a Google Meet call at a time that suits you, or e-mail design@urbaniture.com with a few lines about your project.

Other ways we support projects

Specification Support	Project-appropriate performance objectives and evidence requirements for design briefs, procurement discussions and material selection.
Concept Development	New or adapted urban furniture concepts with climate performance, usability, manufacturing and maintenance considered from the outset.

For municipalities, architecture and landscape architecture practices, developers and urban furniture manufacturers.

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