

## Wheelchairs of Kansas

Durability, Reliability, and Strength Plus Superior Cleanability  
Using KYDEX® T with Built-in Antimicrobial Protection

### The Company

Based in Ellis, KS, Wheelchairs of Kansas ([www.wheelchairsofkansas.com](http://www.wheelchairsofkansas.com)) is dedicated to manufacturing bariatric medical equipment. The company's experienced staff specializes in the research, design, and development of product lines including manual and power wheelchairs, beds, mattresses, mobility aids, bath aids, and lift and transfer equipment, as well as related parts and accessories. With a 58,000-square foot manufacturing facility, the company is the largest employer in Ellis and produces the majority of its equipment in the United States.



In addition to complying with FDA guidelines, Wheelchairs of Kansas is ISO 13485 certified as part of its commitment to achieving total customer satisfaction and continuously improving overall quality performance from the design through delivery and ongoing customer service.

### The Challenge

As one of the first companies to recognize the need for bariatric products, Wheelchairs of Kansas builds its specialized equipment to support the level of care necessary for the effective treatment of this patient population. As manufacturing criteria evolves and demand grows, the company continually develops new and improved products.

When the time came to update the headboards, footboards, and side rails of one of its leading bed product lines, Wheelchairs of Kansas began shopping for the best material for the job — one that would provide the highest quality, durability, reliability, and strength while creating a more modern looking and competitive end product.

### The Solution

Wheelchairs of Kansas was considering thermoplastic products including acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) when partner Associated Thermoforming, Inc. ([www.ati-forms.com](http://www.ati-forms.com)), recommended that they consider KYDEX® thermoplastic sheet products. The Wheelchairs of Kansas experts were impressed with what they saw and in the end, chose KYDEX® T with built-in antimicrobial protection.

"In addition to the strength and flame/heat resistance we require, KYDEX® T MB gave us the added benefit of the built-in antimicrobial agent," according to Craig McGuire, Purchasing, Coordinator at Wheelchairs of Kansas. "The antimicrobial protection is a great selling point — allowing us to offer customers something extra that competitors may not have in their products."

Manufactured by SEKISUI SPI, in its ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14001:2004 certified facilities in the U.S., KYDEX® T MB sheet is available in specialized grades to meet specific requirements for a variety of demanding applications — offering Wheelchairs of Kansas a wide range of benefits:

- KYDEX® T MB is a cost-effective substitute for fire rated ABS sheet, meeting regulatory requirements for flame/heat resistance and low smoke, and satisfying worldwide product compliance requirements. Unlike KYDEX® T MB, in flame/heat testing performed for Wheelchairs of Kansas, the ABS material emitted a noxious odor.
- Built-in antimicrobial protection helps to continuously fight the growth of microbes such as odor and stain-causing bacteria, mold, and mildew. Since integral antimicrobial protection doesn't wash or wear off, using KYDEX® T MB helps to keep products cleaner 24/7.

#### SEKISUI SPI

ISO 9001 and 14001 Certified

#### Customer Service

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- In addition, KYDEX® T MB is compatible with disinfectants and other strong chemicals used in medical settings, to maintain the highest standards for product cleaning and sanitizing.
- Durable KYDEX® T MB is also resistant to scratching, cracking, discolouration, and other surface damage — enabling products to withstand the test of time and use, and stay clean and new looking longer.
- In addition to high impact strength and extensibility, KYDEX® T MB is among the most rigid thermoforming materials, with a modulus of elasticity of 2,480 MPa (360,000 psi).
- KYDEX® T MB can be extruded through a variety of methods and in different thicknesses to meet specific product needs, allowing for ergonomic design with no sacrifice to the strength of the end product.
- Unique in the industry, KYDEX® products are available in a wide selection of colours, textures, and patterns.
- In addition, all KYDEX® thermoplastic sheet products are 100% recyclable and produced with a regard for safety, health, and environmental protection.

### The Results

KYDEX® T MB gives Wheelchairs of Kansas beds the durability, reliability, and strength that customers expect, plus the added competitive advantage of built-in antimicrobial protection that helps to keep the products clean and sanitary. The company has also begun using KYDEX® T MB to line the inside of all of its delivery trucks, to satisfy accreditation requirements for a cleanable surface.

In addition, a highly supportive and knowledgeable account team helped to ensure that Wheelchairs of Kansas selected the material that would best suit the company's needs. "We had a great working relationship with SPI, and received outstanding customer service throughout the process," according to McGuire. "As we design new products in the future, you can be sure that KYDEX® sheet will be the first material we consider."

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