



The kigo footwear Story

Are you up for a good story? Read on. These aren't just any shoes. This is the story of why we created kigo footwear for anyone who is looking to keep the fun going.

The kigo story begins in 2006, on a day when retired teacher Jan Kuramoto wanted to finish a day on the mountain with après ski. Having only her ski boots to wear on her tired feet, she decided to skip the fun with friends and head home. Alas, the idea for kigo was born.

Jan shared her idea with two friends. One, Kristin Parker, has spent years as a successful nonprofit fundraising exec. The other, her daughter-in-law Rachelle Kuramoto, cut her teeth in editorial for one of the global PR houses. The combined interests and experiences of these women have blended to develop a shoe company dedicated to offering a totally portable, stylish and eco-friendly footwear option.

Each kigo shoe has a flexible midsole that allows it to fold completely in half, and a patent-pending hook system keeps the shoe compressed. When compacted, the shoes fit into a small space for easy portability.

While portability was the initial goal, the kigo team knew the shoes must also be stylish, comfortable and sturdy. A fingerprint-grooved outsole, slim design and removable insole provide those must-haves.

Early on in the design process, the team determined that they didn't want simply to provide just another footwear option. To do it right was to do it responsibly, so the shoes, packaging and even the water/stain resistance treatment are all eco-friendly. The uppers were milk jugs in a former life, the cements are water based, the storage bag is made from biodegradable cornstarch, and the packaging is recycled corrugate with eco-friendly inks. The water/stain resistance is remarkable – the EPA and FDA approved treatment is almost totally protective of water, salt or other elements (we even tested it with coffee).

The bonus to these 'green' efforts is that the shoes are uniquely strong and lightweight (only .7lbs per pair) which aids portability, whether the kigos are used for commuting, travel, transitions between sports or just wearing for a comfortable, almost barefoot feeling shoe.