Within the manufacturing sector, the design process for product development generally includes the following stages:

**Identify needs**

This stage involves researching the problems that the design process is intended to solve.

**Design**

The design phase includes processing information identified in the preliminary stages of the process, leading to ideation—the identification of materials that may be used to eventually create solutions—and the development of initial sketches and drawings to pave the way for further innovation.
Plan
The planning stage involves a more formal organization of ideas to reflect the eventual prototyping of materials, in accordance with manufacturing processes and standards.

Make
With plans in hand, artifact prototypes are then created for testing. Material layout is followed by the use of a variety of processes, machines, and tools (including both hand and power tools) to shape, form, and finish artifacts.

Evaluate
The testing and evaluation of a prototype leads to refinement of its design or an abandonment of the original prototype in favour of an improved model. The iterative quality of design work is an essential feature of the design process.