

Certified Wood Products

Why we care

The wood we choose to purchase for building and home projects has a direct impact on our environment. Biodiverse forests are essential for healthy plant and animal habitat and clean air and water. Pacific Northwest forests, once rich with diverse species of plants and trees, are now dominated by Douglas fir – a tree selected for rapid growth and cutting cycles. Once a forest is clear-cut, it takes a minimum of 500 years to reach old-growth status. Fortunately, a certification system exists that allows you to purchase wood you can feel good about.

Simple, positive steps

- Look for FSC certified wood. The [Forest Stewardship Council](#) is an international nonprofit established in 1993 by a coalition of environmentalists, native peoples, and forestry professionals to promote responsible management of the world's forests.
- FSC is the only wood certification standard that achieves all these benefits:
 - Protection of streams from erosion and chemical runoff,
 - Protection of old growth,
 - Tree canopies of many sizes and species,
 - Provision of wildlife habitat,
 - Protection of the customary rights and resources of indigenous people, and assessment of the impacts of forest operations on local communities.
- Where to shop:
 - [Sustainable Northwest Wood](#) carries Northwest-grown softwood dimensional lumber, hardwood lumber, juniper landscape timbers, plywood, flooring, decking, paneling, and trim.
 - [Green Depot](#) carries flooring and cabinets.
 - You or your contractor can order FSC certified wood from lumber suppliers. Look for the logo, and ask for FSC certified products.



Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.