



Sustainable Forestry FAQs



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Frequently Asked Questions

Is this the first time The Home Depot has addressed its wood purchasing practices?

No, in 1999 we first released our Wood Purchasing Policy. This was one of our first steps towards supporting sustainable forestry throughout the world. In it, we stated that we would stop buying from endangered regions by the end of 2002 and that we would pay special attention to species such as lauan, cedar, and redwood.

What changes has The Home Depot made in product lines to promote sustainable forestry?

We began to give preferential treatment to certified products about thirty years ago. In addition, we have shifted procurement of wood from questionable sources to companies that practice responsible forestry.

- We are a leader in FSC certified wood product sales in America
- Transitioned many vendors to FSC certified wood in America
- Stopped buying ramin dowels and shifted to FSC certified eucalyptus dowels
- Replaced carpenter pencils with FSC certified pencils
- Worked with our vendors to shift more than 80% of our lauan wood used in the production of doors to wood from more sustainable sources
- Moved more than 90% of our cedar purchases to second- and third-growth forests in the United States. The remaining cedar purchases are sourced from coastal British Columbia and have been through the local community stakeholder review
- Significantly increased our FSC certified redwood. Our two primary suppliers of redwood both give a strong purchasing preference for FSC certified wood, and we will continue to exercise a preference for certified redwood

These are just a few examples of our commitment to sustainable forestry through partnership with our vendors. There are many more.



How has The Home Depot addressed endangered regions?

We have moved volumes of wood product purchases sourced from sensitive areas to more sustainable and less controversial areas. Even today there is limited scientific consensus on identifying "endangered regions" of forestry. We go to great lengths to track most all our products that contain wood including partnering with our vendors to gain the most accurate information possible. In addition, we closely monitor the state of the world's forests paying particular attention to environmentally sensitive regions.

What organizations is The Home Depot working with to promote sustainable forestry?

We have worked with several organizations that monitor the condition of the world's forests. These organizations also help us promote sustainable forestry through education and information sharing. Examples of these organizations include Canadian Forest Service, Certified Forest Products Council, Conservation International, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Forest Landowners Association, Global Forest & Trade Network, National Association of State Foresters, The Natural Step, The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Alliance/SmartWood Program, Scientific Certification Systems, Tropical Forest Foundation, Tropical Forest Trust, USDA Forest Service, USDA Forest Service International Programs, World Resources Institute, World Wildlife Fund and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

From where does most of The Home Depot's wood come?

About 86% of our wood comes from North America. The North American forest coverage has increased by 247,000 acres from 2010-2015*. Approximately 8% comes from South America and is mostly pine and eucalyptus.

*Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

What is "certified wood"?

Certified wood has been managed and harvested under strict guidelines and monitored by a third party to ensure sustainable harvesting practices are followed. Some certified timber can be tracked through its entire journey from stump to shelf.

Why does The Home Depot buy certified wood?

Buying certified wood allows us to take an active role in sustainable forestry. By giving preference to certified wood, we are encouraging these responsible practices in all our wood suppliers. Today's wood certifications include FSC, SFI, CSA, PEFC, and ATF