



## **Wood Purchasing Policy**

As the world's largest home improvement retailer and an industry leader on sustainability issues, we have the ability to effect change by doing the right thing. To help protect endangered forests and to ensure that there will be timber for future generations, The Home Depot first issued its Wood Purchasing Policy in 1999. From 1999 through 2021 we have been very successful in leading our suppliers to understanding and practicing sustainable forestry throughout the world.

We pledged to give preference to wood that has come from forests managed in a responsible way and to eliminate wood purchases from endangered regions of the world.

Today, we have broadened our focus to understand the impact of our wood purchases in all regions and embrace the many social and economic issues that must be considered in recognizing "endangered regions" of forests.

To fulfill the pledge, it was necessary to trace the origin of almost all of the wood products on our shelves. After years of research, we have a good insight into lumber to broom handles, doors to molding and paneling to plywood- where our wood products are harvested.

It was a daunting task, but we are proud of our accomplishments. To further show the company's leadership commitment to the environment and to promote certification in the industry we felt compelled to share our findings.

### **Building on the Journey**

We sell less than 1% of all the wood cut worldwide. Approximately 94% of our wood comes from North America (~86%) and pine/eucalyptus plantations in South America (~8%). The forest land coverage in North America has grown by over 247,000 acres from 2010-2015.

Our research taught us much about the world's forest coverage by country. This information came from many highly regarded organizations, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), USDA Forest Service, the U.S. State Department, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Forest and Trade Network, the Tropical Forest Foundation, the Tropical Forest Trust, The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund.

### **Reaching out to Stakeholders**

At Home Depot we have reached out to many stakeholders over the past 21 years to help us research and understand the world's forestry issues. We have participated in many committees and studies in efforts to clarify the issues that affect our forests. Some of these include Yale

Forest Forum, Southern Forest Carbon Project, FSC controlled wood working group and many others.

## **Environmental Seal of Approval**

Wood is considered "certified" if it has been managed and harvested under strict guidelines and monitored by a third party to ensure sustainable practices are followed. In short, some certified timber can be tracked through its entire journey from stump to shelf.

One of the certification standards is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an independent organization based in Bonn, Germany. We sell more FSC certified wood than any retailer in America and at the same time we have transitioned more vendors to FSC certified wood than any other retailer in America.

We began to give preferential treatment to FSC certified products in 1999. In addition, we have shifted buying wood from questionable sources to companies that practice responsible forestry. These products originated in many continents including: Europe, Asia, North and South America.

We have worked closely with domestic and international manufacturers to help develop a supply chain that enables consumers to purchase FSC wood products. During the timeframe 2000 to 2021 we developed programs and purchased FSC wood products from over 60 global suppliers. These products currently include categories of doors, boards, patio furniture, moulding, plywood and much more.

Implementing the policy meant making minor changes to our wood supply chain and rewarding companies that practice responsible forestry. Since initiating our policy in 1999 and continuing through 2020 we have maintained approximately the same ratio in wood purchasing volume by country. In addition, we have:

- 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
- Replaced mahogany levels with domestically engineered wood
- 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 primary suppliers of redwood give a strong purchasing preference for FSC certified wood and we will continue to exercise a preference for certified redwood

1. The Home Depot will give preference to the purchase of wood and wood products originating from certified well managed forests wherever feasible.

2. The Home Depot will eliminate the purchase of wood and wood products from endangered regions around the world.
3. The Home Depot will practice and promote the efficient and responsible use of wood and wood products.
4. The Home Depot will promote and support the development and use of alternative environmental products.
5. The Home Depot does not accept wood from the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea Amazon or Congo Basin areas unless Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified.
6. The Home Depot expects its vendors and their suppliers of wood and wood products to maintain compliance with laws and regulations pertaining to their operations and the products they manufacture.