

Certified Wood Products

Why we care

The wood we choose to purchase for home projects has a direct impact on our environment. Biodiverse forests are essential for healthy plant and animal habitat and clean air and water. Yet Pacific Northwest forests 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 forests.
- FSC is the only wood certification standard that achieves all these benefits:
 - Protects water quality, old growth, species diversity, and wildlife habitat
 - Prohibits highly hazardous chemicals
 - Protects the customary rights and resources of indigenous people and assesses the impacts of forest operations on local communities
- Where to shop for FSC wood:
 - [Sustainable Northwest Wood](#) carries FSC, NW-sourced dimensional lumber, juniper landscape timbers, plywood, flooring, decking, and more. Note: Juniper, which comes from invasive removal, is rot resistant and durable.
 - You or your contractor can order FSC certified wood from many lumber suppliers.
- Reclaimed lumber from deconstruction of homes and barns rather than forests is another good option.
 - [Salvage Works](#), with a showroom in Portland, carries reclaimed wood for tables and shelving.
 - [Altruwood](#) offers FSC and reclaimed flooring and decking.



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