

Facts about temperate and tropical hardwood



Wood for Good



Temperate hardwood comes from forests across the eastern United States, Canada, Europe, China, Japan, and parts of Russia.



Tropical hardwood comes from continents surrounding the Equator; mainly Central and West Africa, Southeast Asia and South America.

47%

The percentage of the total global growing stock contained in these forests.

Forests need to be managed to be sustainable. Using a forest for logging purposes means more growing trees which **locks carbon in timber**. This outweighs the emissions released through transport and felling.



Illegal logging, which includes illegal harvesting, processing or trading in timber and timber products, is a global issue.



It is more common in developing countries where there are wider governance problems.



Consumer countries are also accountable where timber and timber products are imported without ensuring they are legally sourced.

The EU's **Forest Law Enforcement, Government and Trade (FLEGT)** plan and **Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)** aim to promote trade in legally produced timber.

Forest certification systems such as the **Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)** and the **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** aim to protect biodiversity, ecosystem services, local employment, and indigenous peoples' rights within the forest through sustainable management.



Tropical hardwood's qualities include strength and resistance to abrasion or impact. Fire resistance tends to be better in hardwood products due to its higher density.



Both temperate and tropical hardwoods are popular in UK construction due to their natural durability.



Oak and sweet chestnut are ideal temperate hardwoods for external construction. They're commonly used in timber frame buildings.

How to procure hardwood

1 Check the timber or timber products you source are legal.

Put in place a procurement policy enforcing a preference for certified timber and timber products.

2 Have enhanced due diligence systems in place when timber and timber products cannot be certified.

The supplier you use should still be able to verify the source. Be vigilant about the risks of illegal timber in your supply chain.

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