

## Sustainable Timber



### What is it?

Sustainable timber and wood products are obtained from forests that are actively managed to ensure long-term timber supplies while protecting the environment and the lives of forest-dependent people.

### Why is it important?

Using sustainably sourced wood helps reduce deforestation, which is a major contributor to climate change, loss of biodiversity and localised environmental damage. According to the Environmental Investigation Agency unsustainable logging is being driven by demand for wooden goods in Europe and the United States.

### How do I choose sustainable wood?

The Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, not-for-profit organization set up to promote stewardship of the world's forests. Its mission is to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. The organisation has developed internationally recognised standards for responsible forest management and a certification scheme supported by the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and major retailers. Look for the FSC logo when you are buying wood products. For an even better environmental choice, look for reclaimed timber. "Esalvo" has an online database of reclamation yards.

## At a glance

To avoid timber that has come from illegal logging operations overseas, look for the FSC logo.



Courtesy of the Forest Stewardship Council

Deforestation is a major environmental issue that is extremely important. Rainforests and old forests are partly responsible for maintaining a stable atmosphere as they soak up CO<sub>2</sub>. They are also home to over 50% of the world's biodiversity and a melting pot for genetic variation – essential for maintaining a future food supply and cures to diseases.

If you wish to find out more about sustainable wood please contact Actio<sub>2</sub>n Surrey on 0800 783 2503

## Step 3– Sustainable Timber