



OUR MISSION

Create a marketplace that promotes well-managed forests and ensures forestry practices are environmentally responsible, socially equitable, and economically viable.



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL—US

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WHAT IS FSC?

FSC is the global consensus voice of forest stewardship, affording all forest stakeholders a seat at the table. As a nonprofit, FSC sets high standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way. Landowners and companies that sell forest products seek FSC certification as a way to verify to consumers that their products are sourced from well managed forests consistent with FSC standards.



PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA

FSC has developed a set of 10 Principles and 57 Criteria for forest management that are applicable to all FSC-certified forests throughout the world. The 10 Principles are summarized below:

Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles

Forest management must abide by all applicable laws of the country in which they occur.

Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities

Rights to the land are clearly defined and clearly established.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Indigenous peoples' rights to own, use, and manage their lands are recognized and respected.

Community Relations and Worker's Rights

Maintain and/or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.

Benefits from the Forest

Encourage the efficient use of the forest's resources and services to ensure economic viability, and environmental and social benefits.

Environmental Impact

Conserve biological diversity, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, maintaining the ecological functions and integrity of the forest.

Management Plan

A plan is written, implemented, and kept up to date, including statements of long-term objectives.

Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring is conducted to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain-of-custody, management activities, and their social and environmental impacts.

Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests

Management activities enhance the attributes of high conservation value forests.

Plantations

Plantations should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

See www.fscus.org to download the full set of Principles and Criteria.

WHERE DOES YOUR WOOD COME FROM?

In the United States and around the world, conventional logging is associated with carbon emissions, loss of habitat, water pollution, displacement of indigenous peoples, and other social abuses. Responsible consumers can support healthy forests and reward responsible forestry practices by selecting FSC-certified products. Major international environmental and social organizations trust the FSC label, and so can you.

HOW DOES FSC WORK?

Independent certification organizations are accredited by FSC to carry out assessments of forest management to determine whether FSC standards have been met. These certifiers also verify that companies selling FSC-certified products have tracked their supply back to FSC-certified sources. This chain-of-custody certification assures the integrity of the FSC label.

WHY FSC?

FSC is the only forest certification system endorsed by the nation's leading environmental organizations including The Nature Conservancy, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace and the U.S. Green Building Council. Consumers wishing to support healthy forests and communities can trust the scrutiny of these respected conservation groups.



With their purchasing power, consumers, producers, and distributors have already helped FSC certify 10% of the world's working forests. FSC certification has had a profound positive impact on the environmental and social conditions of forests and surrounding communities. Growth in the demand for FSC-certified products will serve to bring more forestland under certification here in the U.S. and around the world.

WHAT PRODUCTS ARE CERTIFIED?

Any product made with solid wood or wood fiber has the potential to be certified as long as the wood used in the product originates from an FSC-certified source. There are currently more than 10,000 FSC-certified products available worldwide. Sample products include paper, packaging, building products, furniture, and even musical instruments. You can search for FSC-certified products at www.fscus.org.

BUILDING PRODUCTS

Thanks in part to the recognition of FSC in the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council, there has been a surge in the use of FSC-certified wood in green building projects. Many green homebuilding programs and the nation's largest DIY retailers, Home Depot and Lowe's, recognize FSC as the best guarantee of responsible sourcing of wood building products. FSC-certified building products include a wide array of lumber, sheet goods, flooring, millwork, doors, windows, paneling and decking. For a database of FSC building product suppliers, please visit www.findfsc.org.



PAPER AND PACKAGING

Major U.S. companies are reinforcing their brands by specifying FSC paper and packaging. The nation's largest catalogers, for example, have led a transformation in the U.S. paper market. Williams Sonoma, Crate & Barrel, and Limited Brands now choose FSC-certified paper for their combined one billion catalogs a year. Staples stocks FSC-certified papers in all their U.S. stores, and Scholastic, Inc., the world's largest publisher of children's books, has committed to sourcing FSC virgin and recycled fiber. In packaging, Tetra Pak and other leaders are moving toward FSC-labeled products.

FSC encourages the maximization of recycled fiber in paper and other products wherever feasible. In fact, FSC certification provides one the industry's few verification protocols for recycled fiber. Virgin fiber, however, will remain a significant source for paper and packaging and FSC certification allows producers to responsibly source virgin content. Any product made of pulp or paper has the potential to be certified as long as the wood fiber used in the product originates from FSC-certified sources. Just like other forest products, in order to use the FSC label, the product must have flowed through the FSC chain-of-custody from the FSC-certified forest, to a paper manufacturer, merchant, and finally printer, all whom have FSC chain-of-custody certification. FSC-certified paper manufacturers can also label paper that contains only reclaimed material, which includes post consumer recycled content, and paper that contains FSC-certified virgin material, and/or controlled sources and/or reclaimed material. To find sources for FSC-certified papers and printers, please visit www.fscus.org/paper.

IDENTIFYING FSC-CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

FSC's product-labeling system is based on the "checkmark and tree" registered Trademark. The chain-of-custody certification process is designed to ensure the authority, integrity and credibility of the Trademark are maintained. FSC-certified products can be identified by any of the following labels:



FSC 100%

Products with a 100% FSC label originate entirely from forests certified as meeting the environmental and social standards of FSC.



FSC Recycled

Products with an FSC Recycled label support re-use of forest resources and use only post-consumer recycled wood or fiber in accordance with FSC standards.



FSC Mixed Sources

Products with a Mixed Sources label support the development of responsible forest management worldwide. The wood comes from FSC-certified well managed forests, along with company controlled sources and/or post-consumer reclaimed material.

At least 70% of the material used in the production is FSC-certified and post-consumer recycled. Otherwise, the volume credit system allows mixing FSC eligible inputs with FSC Controlled Wood. Under volume credit, products equaling the volume of FSC eligible inputs can be labeled as FSC-certified.

Controlled Wood is not FSC-certified material, but is controlled by the company to avoid wood from: forest areas where traditional or civil rights are violated; forests where high conservation values are threatened; genetically modified trees; illegally harvested wood; and natural forests which have been converted to plantations or other non-forest use.

The recycling symbol identifies post-consumer reclaimed content in these products.

