



BRIGHTON PEACE & ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

WOOD PRODUCTS

Forests are the world's lungs, filtering out carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere. Deforestation is occurring at an alarming rate, destroying natural habitats and accounting for up to 25% of global CO₂ emissions. Only 20% of the world's ancient forests are left. It is estimated that around 60% of the tropical wood used in the UK has been illegally sourced, and many legal sources are not from sustainably-managed forests. As consumers we can make choices which reduce deforestation and support sustainability.

When wanting to purchase....

Friends of the Earth give the following advice:

1. Do you really need this item? Can the item be repaired, restored or adapted?
2. If not, buy second-hand, recycled, reclaimed or waste timber. Alternatively, buy **FSC** certified timber products - preferably local, to limit CO₂ transport emissions.
3. Lastly, for non **FSC** certified timber:
 - Refer to the Good Wood Guide's A-Z of different types of wood timber, to see if it's from an endangered species (www.goodwoodguide.com)
 - Insist on an alternative timber to protect endangered species
 - Boycott wood products from Burma so that you are not supporting the military junta condemned by the UN

Second-Hand

- **Shabitat-Furniture** Lewes Road, Brighton. www.magpie.coop/shabitat.php Tel: 01273 677577
- **Emmaus** Drove Road, Portslade. www.emmausbrighton.co.uk, Tel: 01273 426480
- **Hove YMCA** George Street, Hove. www.hoveymca.org.uk Tel: 01273 749139
- **Martlets Hospice Furniture Showroom** Old Shoreham Road, Hove. www.themartlets.org.uk/retail, Tel: 01273 273400
- **Sussex Beacon Charity Shop** St James' Street, Brighton. www.sussexbeacon.org.uk/charityshop.htm Tel: 01273 682992
- **Adur Furniture Network** 16 Brunswick Road, Shoreham. www.adur.gov.uk/waste-recycling/afn.htm Tel: 01273 441700



Picture courtesy of Greenpeace

- **Furniture Now** Unit 1, Phoenix Works, North Street, Lewes. www.furniturenow.org.uk, Tel: 01273 487377
- Don't forget **Freecycle**. There is a Brighton and a Hove Freecycle:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecyclebrighton>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/freecycle-hove>

Recycled and Reclaimed

- **Brighton & Hove Wood Recycling Project's Wood Store** Municipal Market, Circus Street, Brighton. www.woodrecycling.org.uk, Tel: 01273 570500, makes shelving, benches and tables to order; sells floorboards and doors, and recycles timber.
- **Ethical Wood Furnishings** design and make their own furniture from locally reclaimed wood. They also carry out renovations. www.ethicalwoodfurnishings.co.uk Tel: 077321 56623
- **Gurniture** sell handmade pieces using reclaimed or coppiced wood. *The Workshop, Pangdean Farm,*

London Road, Pyecombe, www.gurniture.co.uk
Tel: 01273 841411

- **Villa & Hut** 40 Sydney Street, Brighton imports handcrafted furniture made from reclaimed/recycled teak and plantation mahogany. www.villaandhutuk.co.uk
Tel: 01273 417799
- **Arbour Vetum**, who have **FSC** certification, use reclaimed teak for their home and garden furniture www.arborvetum.co.uk, Tel: 0845 6066818
- **Tripod Home** stock indoor and outdoor furniture made from reclaimed teak. www.tripodhome.co.uk, Tel: 01934 877088
- **Reel Furniture** sell indoor and outdoor furniture made from recycled wood. www.reelfurniture.co.uk, Tel: 01953 457247
- **Chest of Drawers** has a reclaimed walnut range (they also make furniture from sustainably-sourced wood) www.chestofdrawers.co.uk, Tel: 020 7359 5909 (Islington)

Furniture from FSC Certified Wood

- Look for the **FSC** logo/certificate number and ID code on the specific product and ask if you can't see it. To check companies out, visit www.fsc-uk.org/product-search
- **FSC** certified products are available in stores such as **B&Q**, **Focus**, **M&S** and **Homebase**
- **Pendlewood** have **FSC** certification. www.pendlewood.com, Tel: 01695 557500
- **Benchmark Furniture** have **FSC** certification and actively support the **Woodland Trust**. www.benchmark-furniture.com, Tel: 01488 608020
- However, Simon Counsell (Director of **Rainforest Foundation UK**) says that it might be preferable to buy non-certified local wood, as the **FSC** are now certifying forests where logging is environmentally damaging, and driving out local communities. On top of this there are the CO₂ emissions from transporting wood across the planet



Greenpeace's 2006 Study on Major Garden Furniture Suppliers

Category A: (100% FSC certified/sourced from forests working towards FSC certification) - **B&Q**, **Asda**, **Wyevale**, **Tesco** and **M&S**.

Category B: (More than 75% FSC certified/sourced from forests working towards FSC certification) - **Focus DIY**, **Argos**, **Robert Dyas**, **Homebase**, **John Lewis**, **Morrisons** and **Dobbies**.

Category C: (More than 50% FSC certified/sourced from forests working towards FSC certification) - **Co-op** ("disappointing") and **Habitat** ("very little progress since last year").



Photo courtesy of Nancy Annieo

Alternatives

Bamboo

Bamboo, a type of grass, grows three times faster than wood and regrows when harvested. It releases 30% more oxygen than trees, and minimal pesticide-use is required. It is less threatened than any timber, so use it as a wood substitute when you can, but check that it comes from a managed source.

- **Villa & Hut** 40 Sydney Street, Brighton sell a bamboo range called 'Bamboozled'. www.villaandhutuk.co.uk
Tel: 01273 696787.

Rattan

Rattan comes from several hundred species of palms, native to tropical regions in Africa, Asia and Australasia. It is used for making furniture and baskets. However, rattan should be avoided unless purchased from an ethical trader, as it is being over-harvested and some species are endangered.

For wood flooring, see our 'Carpets and Flooring' factsheet.

What you can do right now.....

Only throw away wood as a last resort! There are a thousand ways to reuse wood in the home, and if that doesn't take your fancy then maybe a friend could use it...

Resources & Further Information

'A Good Life: The guide to ethical living', Leo Hickman, Bantam Press, 2005

Ethical Consumer: 105 Mar/Apr 2007; 107 Jul/Aug 2007; and 110 Jan/Feb 2008

The Good Shopping Guide', Ethical Marketing Group, 2006

'The New Green Consumer Guide', Julia Hailes, Simon & Schuster, 2007

'The Rough Guide to Ethical Living', Duncan Clark, Penguin Books Ltd, 2006