

Is the hardwood you are being sold really from sustainable sources?

Many competitors claim to offer 'environmentally friendly' hardwood. It is a simple promise to make. But it is a much less simple promise to deliver.

If you are being offered tropical hardwood (such as Sapele, Mahogany or Meranti) from sustainable sources we recommend you ask to see independent certification. According to the International Timber Organisation less than **5%** of the world's tropical forests are being sustainably managed, and the reality is that demand for certified tropical hardwood far outstrips supply.

In the absence of certification, there are few ways to differentiate between critically endangered species and those less threatened. Once the tree is felled and the leaves and branches removed it is often impossible to identify the species.

The problem is compounded by a lack of good governance in source countries (such as Indonesia and many Central and West African Countries) where weak institutions lack the capacity to enforce forest law. Illegal logging is widespread. And illegal logging impacts directly on people, often the rural poor, by denying them the contributions to their livelihoods and by degrading their environment. It is estimated that Britain unknowingly imports illegal timber equivalent to a forest three times the size of Luxembourg each year

Despite a determined effort, TimberWindows.Com have to date failed to find a ready supply of independently verified tropical hardwood in sufficiently abundant supply to feed our production lines.

In the absence of certification we have tasked all suppliers to investigate the traceability of the timber used. It is hoped that by tracking the wood from forest of origin through the various manufacturing stages, we shall be able to gradually eliminate unmanaged supplies. Our work on this 'Chain of Custody' approach is ongoing. However at this time we cannot guarantee to our customers that all our tropical hardwoods are from sustainable forests. We feel it is better to be honest than make promises we cannot deliver.

It is for this reason that we are asking our customers to choose European Redwood. This is our favoured alternative. The longevity of this strong, knot free, stable timber is well proven in the United Kingdom. It is the material used by British joiners of yesteryear; Most 100 year old British joinery has been made in European Redwood. All of our European Redwood carries full Forest Stewardship Certification. Robust credentials that provide a solid guarantee that your new timber windows will not cost the Earth.

Our Environmental Policy

TimberWindows.Com long term goal is:

'To trade and produce wood products, which are independently verified as originating from sustainably managed forests'.

TimberWindows.Com short term goal is:

'To actively promote the sale of wood products which are independently verified as originating from sustainably managed forests, over unverified alternatives. To bring to customers attention the uncertainty and potential environmental risk surrounding the supply of tropical hardwood'.

For further information visit our website www.timberwindows.com



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