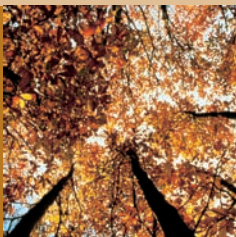


What is the Forest Stewardship Council?



Because
Forests
Matter



factsheet

Are you contributing to global deforestation?

Every year an area half the size of the UK is cleared of natural forests: temperate and tropical, North and South and on every continent. These forests, which once covered half of the planet, are irreplaceable and their loss has profound economic, social and environmental impacts. Forests support up to 1.6 billion of the poorest people in the world, and 60



Forest inspected and certified

million indigenous people and countless species of plants and animals are wholly dependent on forests for their lives. Forests also have a beneficial effect on regulating the climate. Deforestation is a major contributor of CO₂ emissions. The products of this deforestation can be found throughout the UK and if you buy these products you could be supporting this destructive timber trade.

How can you be sure that you are not supporting this industry?

Look for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo on your paper and timber products.

FSC enables you to buy forest products of all kinds with confidence that you are not contributing to global forest destruction.



Each link of the chain is audited

What is the Forest Stewardship Council?

The Forest Stewardship Council is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. It was founded in 1993 in response to public concern about deforestation and demand for a trustworthy wood-labelling scheme. FSC has developed a system of forest certification and product labelling that allows consumers to identify wood and wood-based products from well-managed forests.

What makes FSC forests special?

Forests must be managed to the highest environmental, social and economic standards. Trees that are harvested are replanted or allowed to regenerate naturally but it does not stop there. The forests must be managed with due respect for the environment, the wildlife and the people who live and work in them. This is what makes the FSC system unique and ensures that a forest is well-managed, from the protection of indigenous people's rights to the methods of felling trees.



Products labelled with FSC logo

How can you be sure that the product really does come from an FSC certified forest?

In addition to forest certification, the FSC system includes a certified chain of custody that tracks the timber through every stage in the supply chain from the forest to the final user. This is monitored through the invoicing process and the final label on the product has a code that confirms that the item is genuinely FSC.



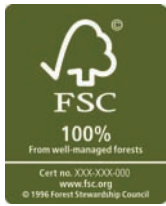
Each link of the chain is audited

What does the FSC logo mean?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) logo on a wood or wood based product is your assurance that it is made with, or contains, wood that comes from FSC certified forests or from post-consumer waste.



What do the different labels mean?



FSC 100%

All the timber or fibre in the product comes from an FSC-certified forest



FSC Recycled

All the timber or fibre in the product is post-consumer reclaimed material.



FSC Mixed Sources

The timber or fibre in the product is a mixture of some/all of the following:

- Timber from an FSC-certified forest
- Post-consumer reclaimed material
- Controlled Sources

Which products carry the label?

The FSC label is currently found on over 10,000 product lines in the UK alone. You can find it on garden furniture, decking, sheds, conservatories, tools, bird boxes and bird tables, kitchen, bathroom and general housewares, brushes, wall paper, flooring, doors, shelves, furniture, toilet tissue, paper, books, pencils - in fact most things made from wood. It can also be found on other forest products such as venison, essential oils and latex for footballs and balloons.

Where can you buy FSC labelled products?

Almost all the major DIY stores such as B&Q, Homebase and Focus DIY stock FSC items. You can also find them in High Street stores such as Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, Boots, Woolworths, The Body Shop, WH Smith and Co-op.

Why is the FSC trademark different from other forest certification schemes?

There are a number of other forest certification schemes around but they do not have the same strict environmental, social and economic standards or such a rigorous chain of custody; tracking timber from the forest to the final user. Therefore the FSC is the only one endorsed by the major environmental charities including WWF, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the Woodland Trust.



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Do FSC certified products cost more?

Like all products it depends on the availability but on the whole familiar items will be roughly the same price as non-FSC items.

What should you do if you cannot find products with the FSC label?

Although more and more products are becoming available all the time there are still gaps in the market. If you cannot find a product you should ask for it; the greater the demand the more forests will become certified. The FSC can also help with sourcing items, take a look at our product search on the web site (www.fsc-uk.org) or contact the FSC Information Service on 01686 413916.

10 Facts about FSC

1. You can buy wood products with a clear conscience when you see the FSC logo. FSC labelled products are made with consideration for people, wildlife and the environment.
2. The FSC label guarantees that the trees that are harvested are replaced or allowed to regenerate naturally.
3. Parts of the forest are protected entirely, in order to protect rare animals and plants.
4. FSC protects the rights of indigenous people to use the forest. If they have sacred sites in the forest these are exempt from felling.
5. The forest owner must use local workers to run the forest, and provide training, safety equipment and a decent salary. The forest owner is often obliged to support the community in other ways, such as through the development of schools.
6. FSC is a market-based initiative which also ensures better conditions for the forest and the people whose livelihoods depend on it
7. FSC gives an assurance that future generations will be able to enjoy the benefits of the forest.
8. All the wood is tracked from the forest to the store. Every link between the forest and the consumer is certified to make it clearly identifiable which wood is FSC certified and which is not.
9. FSC is the only wood certification scheme endorsed by the major environmental charities, including WWF, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and The Woodland Trust
10. The FSC label is not only available on wood for furniture. It can also be found on floors, decking, paper, printed matter, charcoal, kitchen utensils, even venison!



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