

# AMERICAN HARDWOODS: THE ENVIRONMENTALLY- CONCIOUS CHOICE

Looking for an eco-friendly way to add beauty and warmth to a home or building? Look no further than natural, sustainable American Hardwoods. Whether selecting hardwood floors, cabinetry, furniture or moulding, American Hardwoods bring the beauty of nature indoors with unmatched design flexibility. Species such as birch, cherry, maple and oak have brought style to homes and commercial spaces for hundreds of years. In addition to being design-friendly, American Hardwoods are an environmentally-conscious choice.

## HERE'S WHY

### RENEWABLE

American Hardwoods are an abundant, natural material that is self-regenerating and naturally prolific. Nearly twice as much hardwood grows each year as is harvested. And, according to the U.S. Forest Service, the volume of hardwoods today is 90% larger than it was 50 years ago.

### LOCALLY GROWN

American Hardwoods are locally grown so less energy is required to transport them, which results in a reduced carbon footprint when compared to non-native woods. Plus, studies have shown that it takes less energy to manufacture products from wood than other materials. Studies show that making products from steel, aluminum, glass, concrete and brick can require up to 126 times more energy to manufacture than American Hardwoods.

### CARBON NEUTRAL

Healthy forests are net producers of oxygen through photosynthesis. Growing trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and separate the carbon and oxygen atoms. The oxygen is released back into the atmosphere, while the carbon is used to grow roots, trunk, branches and leaves. The carbon is then stored in the wood for the life of the tree and the resulting products, such as flooring, cabinetry and furniture.



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## EFFICIENT USE OF BY-PRODUCTS

Virtually every part of a log is used as lumber for flooring or furniture. Advanced technology and manufacturing processes ensures efficient use of wood by-products. For example, tree bark becomes mulch and soil conditioners, sawdust is used for animal bedding or as fuel for boilers and trimmings can be used for wood components and paper.

## LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS

Solid hardwood floors can last for up to 125 years or longer creating a long life cycle. When considering life cycle costing, the useful life of American Hardwoods can span generations, making them more favorable and cost-effective over the lifecycle than competitive products.

## THIRD-PARTY ENDORSEMENT

The U.S. Congress passed resolutions in 2009 and 2010 that officially recognized that the American Hardwood industry sustainably manages an environmentally preferable, natural resource, and that hardwoods should not be discriminated against in government procurement programs. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agreed and announced an endorsement strategy regarding the merits of domestic wood as a preferred green building material.

For more information about American Hardwoods, including design tips and a species guide, visit [www.HardwoodInfo.com](http://www.HardwoodInfo.com)



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