

FAQ

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Q1	How is cutting down trees good?
A1	Timber is one of the most environmentally friendly materials available. It is renewable, biodegradable, non-toxic, energy efficient and greenhouse gas friendly. All other major construction materials are finite but trees can be cut down and replanted. Timber can be recycled and when it reaches the end of its life it can be disposed of with minimal impact to the environment because of its non-toxic nature.
Q2	Is wood a good insulator?
A2	Timber is one of the best insulation materials. It is 5 times better as an insulator than concrete, 400 times better than steel and 1,770 times better than aluminium. That makes it an excellent material for use in construction to reduce energy bills for both households and business.
Q3	What are hardwoods & softwoods?
A3	<p>Wood is also an extremely versatile structural material, ingeniously arranged to provide a living structure that combines both strength and flexibility. Trees are usually divided into two broad groupings:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardwoods; deciduous • Softwoods; coniferous <p>On a world scale, there are two main groupings of hardwoods:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) temperate ones come generally from Europe, North America, southern S. America and New Zealand. b) tropical ones are from Central South America, Africa, India, South-East Asia and Australasia. <p>Natural softwoods are found principally in a broad belt stretching across North America, Scandinavia, Russia and Siberia - the Northern Hemisphere temperate zone.</p> <p>The structural properties of hard and softwood differ, a reflection on how they grow and these mean they have different uses for us. It is perfectly possible to buy both locally grown soft and hardwoods here in the South East of England.</p>
Q4	What does sustainable timber mean?
A4	<p>The UK government has made the achievement of sustainable development one of its principal objectives but what does it mean?</p> <p>At its heart is the simple idea of ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. A widely-used international definition is '<i>development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations</i></p>

	<p><i>to meet their own needs'.</i></p> <p>Although the idea is simple, the task is substantial. It means meeting four objectives at the same time, both in the UK and the world as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social progress, which recognises the needs of everyone • effective protection of the environment • prudent use of natural resources • maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment <p>Sustainable forestry recognises the same wide objectives and the importance of linking the economic, environmental and social values of forests. At its simplest, it means making sure that today's forests are still here for our children and grandchildren. But we also have to be careful of the quality of the inheritance that we pass on to future generations. They will rightly expect that their forests and woodlands will offer the same benefits and opportunities (or if possible more) as we enjoy.</p> <p>Construction has a huge contribution to make to everyone's quality of life and in enabling the positive impacts of its work to be achieved in a more sustainable manner. Construction outputs can alter the nature, function and appearance of the towns and countryside in which we live and work.</p> <p>Pollution has major sources in the construction process: waste materials, noise, vehicle emissions, contaminant release into the atmosphere, ground & water. Energy produced from non-renewable sources and consumed in building services accounts for approx 50% of UK CO₂ emissions, contributing to climate change, consuming non-renewable resources and adding to pollution. This needs to change if we are to achieve the Government's target of a 60% reduction in (the 1990 level of) emissions by 2050.</p> <p>Therefore it is not surprising that there is an increasing demand, in both the private and public sectors, to understand sustainable construction practices. This demand is driven by a realisation that sustainable practices make sense to both owners and operators. It is in this climate that timber offers so much.</p>
Q5	How can using wood help climate change?
A5	If you would like to find out more about woodlands and climate change go to the Forestry Commission site http://www.forestry.gov.uk/ and follow the links on climate change.
Q6	I have heard the phrase life cycle assessment what does it mean?
A6	<p>The idea behind life cycle or whole life thinking is that when choosing products or services it is necessary to look at the impact products and services bring with them, what impacts are produced while the product is in use and what impacts happen when the product is taken out of use (disposed of or recycled). If only one part of the life cycle is examined it could be possible to choose a product that causes considerable environmental impact in one or more parts of its whole life. Life cycle thinking avoids shifting problems from one life cycle stage to another, from one place to another and from one part of the environment to another.</p> <p>For further information on Life Cycle Assessments try the following websites: http://www.woodknowledgewales.co.uk/page.jsp?id=25 http://www.trada.co.uk/techinfo/asset/send/649/content/453bd7-f2123c7e30--7ff7-envmerits.unzip/index.html#d0e34</p>

	http://www.woodforgood.com/building-sustainably/codes-and-tools/life-cycle-assessment/
Q7	I have heard that local timber is more expensive than foreign timber?
A7	That may be so because wages and land values are very high here in the South East compared to many other parts of the world. However there are many benefits in terms of local amenity, increased biodiversity in sustainably managed woodland with increased amenity value (good for recreation) to name a couple. Additionally local timber is not being transported across the world thereby reducing its carbon footprint.
Q8	What is FSC?
A8	<p>The majority of certified timber in the UK is under the FSC scheme. It enables producers who can demonstrate sound forest management to reach consumers who wish to have an independent guarantee that the forest or woodland of origin is managed according to agreed social and environmental principles and criteria. http://www.fsc.org/en/</p> <p>All points in the supply chain need to be FSC certified. This is known as the chain of custody, for the final product to carry the FSC mark. Many sawmills in the South East who process local timber do not have FSC certification but do source FSC timber; this enables you, the customer, to determine the exact origin of this local timber.</p>
Q9	What is UKWAS?
A9	<p>The UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>The UKWAS is not a certification scheme but uniquely, it is designed to provide a single common standard for use within those forest certification programmes that operate in the UK. These programmes provide a way to assure buyers and users that wood and wood products come from sustainably managed woodlands.</p> <p>To learn more about certification, procurement and specification there is a module in wood for good's Online Learning. For architects and specifiers it is free to register at http://www.timberacademy.co.uk/</p>

