



What is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)?

So many things in our lives come from forests. FSC helps take care of forests and the people and wildlife who call them home. So you can keep your life full of forest products while keeping our forests full of life.

Why are forests important?

Forests are good for us. They provide a great environment for hiking and other outdoor pursuits and are even proven to have therapeutic properties. Millions of indigenous people and countless species of plants and animals are wholly dependent on forests. Trees produce oxygen and in the process store carbon dioxide, meaning that forests are our planet's best defence against climate change. Forests also provide many products that we use every day from timber for furniture and construction to paper for books and tissues and even foods and important medicines.

What's the problem?

Forests are under threat and disappearing at an alarming rate. Deforestation accounts for more greenhouse gas emissions than the global transport sector. Finding a balanced way to both use and protect our forests has become critical.

How can FSC help?

FSC is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. FSC has developed a system of forest certification and product labelling that enables people to identify responsibly sourced wood, paper and other forest products.

How can I help?

Choose FSC certified products whenever you can. Look out for the FSC labels on paper, timber and other forest products including cork, bamboo and natural latex. For unlabelled products, such as sawn timber, choose an FSC certified supplier.

How does it work?

FSC runs a global forest certification system with two key components: Forest Management and Chain of Custody. The certification process is carried out by independent organisations called certification bodies, which assess forest managers and forest products companies against FSC standards.

What makes FSC forests special?

FSC certified forests must be managed to the highest environmental, social and economic standards. Trees that are harvested are replanted or allowed to regenerate naturally. 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. FSC is the only forest certification scheme endorsed by WWF and the Woodland Trust.

What do the labels mean?

An FSC label 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. FSC labels can also be found on some non-timber forest products.



FSC 100%

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



FSC Mix

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

- Timber/fibre from an FSC certified forest
- Reclaimed timber/fibre
- Timber/fibre from other controlled sources



FSC Recycled

All the timber or fibre in the product is reclaimed material.

Where can I find FSC certified products?

You can find the FSC labels 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 including essential oils and natural latex. DIY stores such as B&Q and Wickes stock FSC products. You can also find FSC certified products and packaging on the high street in stores such as Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's, John Lewis, and The Co-operative and from many independent retailers.

How do I know if it's FSC certified?

Look for the FSC label on the product or packaging (remember that the packaging itself can also be FSC certified) or source from an FSC certified company. Every FSC label contains a unique license code. FSC certified companies should state which products are FSC certified and include their unique FSC certificate number on their invoices. FSC license codes and certificate numbers can be verified using the FSC certificate database at info.fsc.org or by contacting the FSC UK office.

What should I do if you can't find FSC certified products?

Although more and more FSC certified products are 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 bigger the supply. The FSC UK office can also help to identify suppliers of specific products.

