

Sustainable Wood



Wood is a valuable, renewable resource. As a design-led company, Haworth values its qualities and aesthetics. Wood is also linked to a variety of ecological and sociological aspects, which is why responsible and sustainable sourcing is a key concern for Haworth.

Our Commitment: Why We Care

As a producer of furniture, Haworth has strong ties to timber—and consequently to forests. These vast natural resources provide significant services to us. They are the most biologically diverse ecosystems on land. They provide shelter, jobs, and security for forest-dependent communities. At a global level, forests mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration, contribute to the balance of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and humidity. Forests also protect watersheds, which supply 75% of freshwater worldwide. And they have a significant role in reducing the risk of natural disasters, including floods, droughts, landslides, and other extreme events.

However, forest ecosystems are under increasing pressure. Global demand for commodities such as timber can often exceed the capabilities of these resources to renew and regrow. Unsustainable extraction of resources is among the primary drivers of deforestation. Political instabilities, weak local governance, missing management plans, and non-transparent supply chains increase the risk of wood being harvested illegally.

From our Global 2025 Commitments

Progress in operational performance involves commitment and effort in partnership with our suppliers and within our own facilities. We are dedicated to seeking opportunities to address the environmental impact of our business in all facets of our operations.

Sustainable Wood:
Source 100% of wood
from sustainable sources

As a manufacturer, Haworth takes over responsibility for sustainable supply chains and responsible sourcing of wood. Our position on sustainable timber lies strongly with our corporate values: namely, listening to our customers, honoring integrity, and striving to make the world better. By thinking beyond our business to the communities where we indirectly operate throughout our supply chain, our commitment to sustainable timber is a sincere effort to make the world a better place for people to work and live.

Our Sourcing Strategy for Timber – Sustainable and with Integrity

Haworth is continually looking to improve our sustainable sourcing efforts. Sourcing strategies for wood focus on two major elements: responsibly managed sources and screening our supply chain according to responsible sourcing criteria.

Haworth is committed to globally sourcing wood raw materials from sustainable sources. To do so, we align with established best practices and engage our supply chain and partners to source wood that has been assessed by a third-party chain of custody certification system (CoC). A chain of custody certification is a tracking system that documents the flow of certified wood through the supply chain. It allows manufacturers and traders to demonstrate that they have established due diligence systems and that timber comes from non-controversial, responsibly managed sources in accordance with a specific standard, such as FSC, a well-known sustainable forest management practice. Other third-party, internationally recognized, and respected standards for chain of custody certifications include PEFC and SFI.

Our goal is to achieve 100% sourcing of wood raw materials for Haworth products from certified sustainable sources through 2025. To achieve this goal, we maintain proactive engagement with our supply chain, partnering with them to obtain certification according to recognized standards, and/or to enhance their sustainable wood offerings.

Our management system defines our company's governance and strategy on the topic and how we measure and monitor timber as a commodity. We have timber policies, sustainable wood goals, and due diligence systems in place to manage implications of the various risks and opportunities, barriers, and challenges associated with our use of timber products. Both our purchasing team and sustainability team are in close exchange with our wood suppliers to gain insights on wood origins, types used, and staying up to date on our commitments.

Sourcing wood also touches on various human rights related topics. Besides raw material extraction, standards also address international labor standards, such as collective bargaining, occupational health and safety, prohibition of forced and child

labor, equal employment and remuneration, and freedom of association. Moreover, all of Haworth's suppliers are encouraged to sign and adhere to the Haworth Supplier Code of Conduct, an agreement that addresses worker safety, labor compensation, anti-child labor, anti-discrimination, anti-corruption, worker respect, and environmental compliance. We work together with our supply chain to help increase the transparency of sustainability standards and initiate improvement measures.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®)

A global NGO that sets the standards for what is a responsibly managed forest, both environmentally and socially.

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)

An international NGO dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. PEFC promotes good forest practice to ensure that timber and non-timber forest products are produced with respect for the highest ecological, social, and ethical standards.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

An NGO that works to create sustainable solutions for both local and global challenges. SFI works in conjunction with forests, indigenous people, conservation groups, governments, and other various communities to promote sustainably managed forests.

Linking Our Activities to the SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Haworth strategies and processes for sourcing sustainable wood align with four of the 17 goals.



Through our sustainable forestry certifications, Haworth supports the conservation of forests which are important elements of freshwater cycles.



With a growing population and rising consumption, Haworth is cautious about the sustainability of our materials to create the least amount of impact we can.



Committing to sourcing certified timber, the wood we use is grown and harvested responsibly, minimizing damage on the environment, and aiding in the fight against climate change.



The world's forests are ecosystems for thousands of species. Sourcing our wood from certified suppliers assures we are minimizing our impact on these ecosystems.

Sustainably Certified Wood Products: What We Offer

In addition to sourcing certified material from sustainable sources, we offer our customers products certified according to FSC for North America and Asia-Pacific Regions, and to PEFC for EMEA (Europe, Middle-East, and Africa) Regions. For this commitment, Haworth has achieved its own chain of custody certifications according to FSC and PEFC.

Products manufactured at plants within the scope of these certifications are deemed certified to either FSC or PEFC. We list the certification status and license codes of a product on our Product Environmental Data Sheets (PEDS). FSC and PEFC Chain of Custody certified products provide verified evidence of sustainable procurement standards, and contribute to sustainable building certifications, such as LEED or BREEAM. They also qualify for credits from holistic sustainability certifications, such as BIFMA level and the European LEVEL.

Sustainability standards from the various markets and the availability of materials certified according to the same standard influence whether we pursue a CoC certification. It is neither practical nor economically sensible to place all products in certifications or to pursue various certifications from different countries.

For the Health of Forests

From our humble roots as a woodworking business in G.W. Haworth's garage in 1948, timber has long been part of Haworth's identity. It is core to our business. Our commitment toward sustainable timber supports our overall commitment toward being a sustainable corporation. We promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial, and economically prosperous management of the world's forests, which meets our current needs for forest products without compromising the health of the world's forests for future generations.



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