ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Eco-friendly Characteristics of Bamboo

- ✓ Woolworths, who was voted “The Most Responsible Retailer of The Year”, no longer purchases certain woods which are now being termed “blood woods”, e.g. Blood Maranti. Maranti is harvested in Indonesia where Orangutans are slaughtered during the harvesting of the timber.
- ✓ Bamboo is sustainable and renewable
- ✓ A natural resource qualifies as a renewable resource if it is replenished by natural processes at a rate comparable or faster than its rate of consumption by humans or other users.
- ✓ Biomass refers to living and recently dead biological material that can be used as fuel or for industrial production.[Biomass]
- ✓ A carbon footprint is a "measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide" [Carbon Footprint.
- ✓ Bamboo products emit VOCs at a virtually Undetectable .00563 milligrams/sqm/h.

“Quality is a Standard, not just an Inspiration”

http://www.carpenterscapetown.com/green-carpentry.html

ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Eco-friendly Characteristics of Bamboo (Continued)

- ✓ A watershed refers to a divide that separates one drainage area from another drainage area [Watershed] to emit no more than 0.5 milligrams of VOCs5 per square meter p/
- ✓ A 60 foot high tree would take around 60 years to re-grow; however, the equivalent to sixty feet in bamboo would only take 60 days to grow.
- ✓ Bamboo matures in 6 years, with over 200 stalks coming from a single bush. This is in comparison to the 10 (Eucalyptus) -120 (Oak) years taken by conventional timbers.
- ✓ Bamboo products are eco friendly, using only a species of bamboo not eaten by the giant panda, the red panda or Himalayan black bear.
- ✓ Bamboo is the fastest growing plant on earth & known to produce a greater biomass2, & 30% more oxygen than a hardwood forest of similar size.
- ✓ Bamboo absorbs up to 12 tons of carbon dioxide per hectare (low carbon footprint) making it more efficient than hardwood trees.
- ✓ Bamboo increases its biomass by 10-30% per year, which far exceeds that of trees, which is 2-5% annually.
- ✓ Bamboo improves watersheds, prevents soil erosion,& removes toxins from contaminated soils & water.
- ✓ Bamboo is a natural water control barrier; it greatly reduces rain run off, prevents massive soil erosion & has a very high water use efficiency, double that of any tree species.
- ✓ Laminated bamboo is significantly less toxic than your typical carpet

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OUR ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Non-eco-friendly Characteristics of Bamboo (production) - NOT Our Bamboo

Whilst bamboo is sustainable, bad management practices have resulted in the destruction of natural forests to make way for Bamboo plantations. This approach destroys bio-diversity, resulting in a mono-culture. Bamboo forests do not generally need fertilizers or pesticides. However, they are being used to increase yield.

There is no comparable FSC Certification for Bamboo forests, ensuring that the forest has been harvested in a sustainable fashion. This is being looked at by the FSC, but nothing is published yet. However, INBAR, an organization dedicated to Bamboo, does, in a measure fulfill a similar role to the FSC. Most bamboo products have carcinogenic urea formaldehyde binders. Not all factories product E1 standard or zero formaldehyde products. VOC as any organic compound that participates in a photoreaction [VOCs]

5 Key Points of Bamboo

- Most structurally stable hardwood (higher tensile strength than cold pressed steel) See stability chart Steel:- 1,600 kg/cm2, Bamboo:- 2,000 kg/cm2
- Most moisture resistant hardwood See water soaked vs. un-soaked sample
- One of the hardest woods in South Africa See hardness chart
- Low Maintenance - no waxing, sanding, oiling, Just a dry mop.
- Eco friendly & renewable resource (matures in 4-6 years) unlike traditional hardwoods which take up to 60 years

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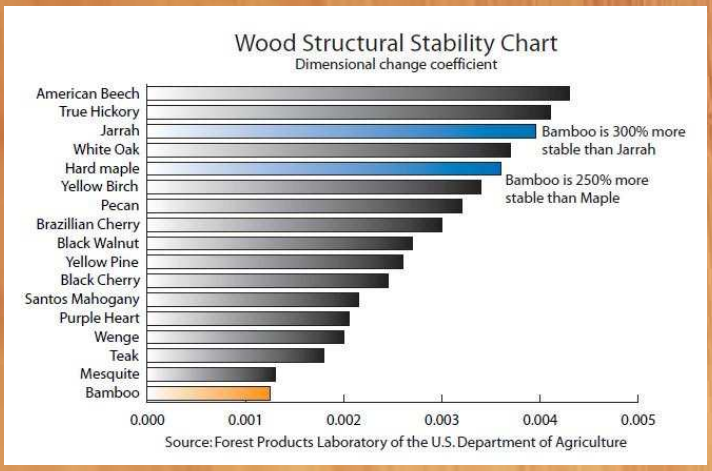
ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Technical Information



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