



## Build Green with SFI®-Certified Wood

Wood from well-managed forests certified to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) Standard is an excellent environmental choice for any new construction or renovation. Wood is renewable and grows naturally, fueled by solar energy.

Managed, certified forests provide a range of benefits to mitigate climate change, in addition to storing carbon. SFI-certified forests are maintained in a healthy state so they can absorb more carbon and are less susceptible to wildfire, insects and disease.

SFI certification gives the added assurance that wood products come from responsibly managed forests. A growing number of buyers — whether institutional, commercial or individual — want to know they are sourcing products from well-managed forests. As one of the largest forest certification standards in the world, the SFI program is well positioned to meet this growing demand.



**Examples of building with SFI:** **Blakely Hall** (left) in Issaquah, WA received certification under the Green Globes rating system and used SFI-certified products such as timber trusses from Port Blakely Tree Farms.

**Harden Furniture** (right), which features numerous SFI-certified products, earned Silver Exemplary status under the Sustainable Furniture Council's certification program.



**Green Building Rating Programs that Recognize SFI-Certified Products**  
Green building has become mainstream. It is attracting consumer demand and being embraced by planners, designers, architects, builders and customers.

### USGBC and LEED

The new draft forest certification credit language in the LEED rating tools opens up the forest certification credit to any forest certification standard that the U.S. Green Building Council recognizes as conforming to its forest certification benchmarks. The SFI program will be given the chance to show it conforms to those benchmarks when LEED is ready to assess forest certification programs later this year.

The SFI Standard is a North American-based forest certification program with comprehensive, transparent, science-based requirements that give customers the assurance that the products they purchase come from responsibly managed and legal sources as defined by rigorous and auditable objectives, performance measures and indicators. The SFI Standard integrates the perpetual growing of trees with the protection of wildlife, plants, soil and water quality. SFI program participants practice responsible forestry on the lands they manage, and influence millions of additional acres

through the training of loggers, foresters and family forest landowners in best management practices. The SFI program is overseen by an independent Board of Directors that equally represents social, environmental and economic forestry stakeholders.

With over 160 million acres (65 million hectares) independently third-party certified to the SFI Standard across the United States and Canada, it's easy to find SFI-certified products for your next green building project.

Visit our searchable product database at <http://www.certifiedwoodsearch.org/sfiprogram/> to find SFI-certified products for your next green building project.

SFI-certified products are recognized by many leading green building rating programs in the United States, Canada and overseas. By specifying SFI-certified products you can achieve credit and recognition under the following programs:

### **Commercial Building in the United States**

The Green Building Initiative's (GBI) Green Globes™ green building assessment and rating system: The Green Globes system promotes building practices that result in energy-efficient, healthier and environmentally sustainable buildings. You can earn points under Green Globes based on the "proportion of solid lumber, engineered wood, and other wood-based products [which] originate from sustainable sources that are a third-party certified sustainable forestry program such as ... the Sustainable Forestry Initiative." In the United States, Green Globes is overseen by the non-profit GBI, and the New Construction module forms the basis of its Proposed American National Standard for the design and construction of commercial buildings. Learn more at [www.thegbi.org](http://www.thegbi.org).

### **Commercial Building in Canada**

In January 2009, Public Works and Government Services Canada stated that wood used in its projects must be certified to one of three programs operating in Canada, including SFI, noting that they all "are effective in improving the sustainable management of Canada's forestry resources."

For new buildings, Green Globes Canada operates the Green Globes Design environmental assessment criteria and tools. The criteria require that builders "use lumber and timber panel products which originate from certified and sustainable sources (certified...[to] the ... SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative))." Learn more at [www.greenglobes.com](http://www.greenglobes.com).

BOMA Canada operates Green Globes under the brand name Go Green Plus for existing commercial buildings. For more information, visit [www.bomagogreen.com](http://www.bomagogreen.com). For new buildings, Green Globes Canada operates the Green Globes Design environmental assessment criteria and tools. The criteria require that builders "use lumber and timber panel products which originate from certified and sustainable sources (certified...[to] the ... SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative))." Learn more at [www.greenglobes.com](http://www.greenglobes.com).

### **Residential Building in the United States**

The National Green Building Standard, the first green building rating system to be approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), offers several resources and tools to help the building community and homeowners learn how to build green. As part of the stringent process required by ANSI, the International Code Council (ICC) and National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) gathered a representative consensus committee including builders, architects, product manufacturers, regulators and environmental experts. The committee's work was administered by the NAHB Research Center, an ANSI-accredited standards developer. The new standard, known as ANSI ICC 700-2008, applies to all residential construction work in the United States. Section 606.2 Wood Products gives credit for "wood or wood based products certified to the requirements of one of the following recognized product programs" including the SFI program. Learn more at [www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org) or contact your local homebuilder association.

### **Residential Building in Canada**

The Built Green Society of Canada is an emerging rating program in Canada for residential buildings. Their checklist requires that "wood must come from a sustainably harvested source with certification from ... the Sustainable Forestry Initiative." Built Green™ is a voluntary program that promotes "green" building practices to reduce the impact that building has on the environment. Learn more at [www.builtgreencanada.ca](http://www.builtgreencanada.ca).

### **Commercial Building in the UK**

The Building Research Establishment (BRE) oversees commercial UK green building programs under the BRE Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). BRE also worked with the Communities and Local Government (CLG) to create The Code for Sustainable Homes for new residential construction in England. The Building Research Establishment recognizes multiple forestry certification standards, including SFI. To learn more, visit [www.breem.org](http://www.breem.org).

### **Everyday, more programs and governments are recognizing SFI products through green building rating programs. These include:**

- SFI-certified products are recognized under government procurement policies around the world including the United States, Japan and the UK.
- The proposed ASHRAE/USGBC/IESNA Proposed Standard 189.1P, Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings.
- Many state, provincial, and local green building policies recognize green building rating programs that include points for, or recognition of, SFI-certified products.



**NAHB's Showcase Green Home** at the International Builder's Show in Las Vegas Nevada in 2009 featured Sierra Pacific Industries' windows framed in SFI-certified wood. Photo by Erin O'Boyle/Courtesy of the Portland Cement Association.

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