

Wood Species Buying Guide

Species	Friends of the Earth rating (2002)	Good Wood Guide Greenpeace Australia (2009)
Ash	OK	Green: FSC ash. Amber: American white ash, Non-certified ash, Mountain ash, Canadian white ash, White ash. Red: Satin ash.
Beech	OK	Green: FSC beech – European, New Zealand, French, Silver, Red, Steamed, Danish, Ecotimber New Guinea White beech. Red: Non-certified New Zealand beech, Silver beech, Red beech.
Cedar	VU: <i>C. odorata</i> (Peruvian population) EN: <i>C. fissilis</i> and <i>C. lilloi</i> LR/NT: <i>J. procera</i>	Green: Gold Coast cedar. Amber: Port Orford cedar, Western red cedar, Yellow cedar, Alaskan cedar, Pacific red cedar, Canoe cedar. Red: Pencil cedar, Gold Coast Cedar.
Mahogany	VU: African, Brazilian (populations in several countries).	Green: FSC mahogany, FSC white mahogany, FSC Sapele mahogany, FSC African mahogany. Amber: American mahogany, Non-certified white mahogany, Honduras mahogany, Cuban mahogany. Red: Non-certified mahogany, African mahogany, Philippine mahogany, Sapele mahogany.
Maple	OK	Green: FSC rock maple, Hard maple, Canadian rock maple, Sugar maple. Red: Pacific maple.
Meranti *	Many Meranti species in international trade are CR or EN	Red: All Meranti.
Nyatoh *	Several species are VU	Red: All Nyatoh.
Oak	OK	Green: FSC oak – American red, European, American white, red, Overcup white, Northern white, white, True white, Swamp chestnut, Chestnut white, Southern white. Amber: Non-certified Tasmanian oak, Non-certified American red oak and Red oak.
Pine	VU: <i>Araucaria angustifolia</i>	Green: FSC pine – baltic, Caribbean, radiata, Monterey, Insignis, Tropic, Malagai, (Philippines), Remarkable pine, Non-certified radiata pine. Amber: Non-certified baltic pine, Canadian pine. Red: Nato (Philippines), Malagai (Philippines), Dao (Philippines).
Ramin *	VU	Red: Ramin, Ramin telur.
Rosewood	Various <i>Dalbergia</i> species in international trade are threatened	Green: Ecotimber New Guinea rosewood, FSC rosewood and Pacific rosewood. Red: Non-certified New Guinea rosewood, Rosewood and Pacific rosewood.
Rubberwood	OK	Green: FSC and non-certified rubberwood.
Sapele	VU	Green: FSC sapele, Sapele mahogany, Sapele. Red: Non-certified sapele, Sapele, Sapele mahogany.
Taun	OK	Green: FSC taun, Ecotimber taun and CBFT (community based fair trade) taun. Red: Non-certified taun.
Teak	Most OK LR/NT: Rhodesian	Amber: All teak.
Walnut	VU: African / dibetou	Green: FSC walnut – New Guinea, American, Pacific, Virginian, Californian, Papua New Guinea, Black, Papuan (UK). Red: Non-certified walnut – New Guinea, Papuan (UK), Pacific, Papua New Guinea.

About the table

The information in the table has been compiled from information from the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Friends of the Earth (FoE) and Greenpeace Australia. We have extracted information about all the species listed as used for furniture by the Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA).

The EIA produced a list of wood they had documented as being illegally cut in Indonesia, highlighted on the table by an *.

The **Friends of the Earth Good Wood Guide** was published in 2002. Although FoE doesn't guarantee that the information about specific timbers is up to date, it still considers the general advice to be appropriate.

CR = Critically Endangered: a very high risk of extinction in the wild

EN = Endangered: a high risk of extinction in the wild

VU = Vulnerable: at risk of extinction

LR/NT = Lower risk/near threatened: close to qualifying as Vulnerable

The **Greenpeace Australia Good Wood Guide 2009** appears to be the most recently published available. It uses a traffic light rating system:

GREEN = Good Wood. FSC certified, reclaimed or ecotimber.

AMBER = 2nd Choice. Wood from sources that are in transition to Good Wood or from a non-controversial or neutral source. Question your supplier. If they can prove the wood product comes from one of the following sources, it is okay to buy.

RED = Bad Wood. These timber species should not be used. All known supplies are from illegal and/or destructive logging.

www.goodwoodguide.org.au

Key questions to ask your wooden furniture supplier

- What species of timber is the product made with?
- Which country was it harvested in?
- Which country was it manufactured in?
- Was the timber legally harvested?
- Was it sustainably harvested?
- How does the retailer know this?
- What evidence has it asked for, and seen, to back this up?
- Can they produce this evidence?

High Risk countries of origin:

Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Liberia, Ghana, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, China, Brazil, Peru, Ecuador.