



## **B&Q Timber & Paper Policy and Buying Standards**

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**socialresponsibility**  
Community | Diversity | Ethical | Environment

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## **B&Q's Timber & Paper Buying Policy**

“To ensure that all our wood and paper products come either from proven, well-managed forests or recycled material”.

B&Q use and sells a lot of timber and products made from or containing wood. For many years we have been committed to ensuring that the timber extraction associated with the products we use and sell does not harm forest conservation or the lives of people who live and work in the forests. We remain committed to sourcing timber only from proven, well-managed forests and we will continue to use our buying power to promote good forest management.

### **B&Q's Timber & Paper Buying Policy is to:**

- ensure that all the timber, timber-containing and paper products we use and sell come from forests that are credibly certified as well-managed with full Chain of Custody, or from recycled materials.
- ensure that all tropical hardwood we stock is FSC certified with full Chain of Custody or comes from suppliers and supply chains that have a Memorandum of Understanding with an approved bridging scheme committing them to achieve FSC certification within an agreed timescale.
- ensure that all credibly certified or recycled timber, timber-containing and paper products that we sell, are labelled appropriately. Where timber has been sourced from The Forest Trust (TFT) projects the TFT logo will be used.

N.B. this Buying Policy does not cover

- Live horticultural products such as bushes, potted trees sold etc
- Christmas trees (potted and cut)
- Non-Timber Forest products e.g. rattan, bamboo, willow
- For guidance on our requirements for these products please refer to QUEST, the forest protection guidance notes and/or contact SR

## **B&Q Timber & Paper Buying Standards**

Certification must include the ability to trace the wood from the forest to the final processor with certified “Chain of Custody” in place from the forest, through every step of the supply chain.

All wood bought by B&Q will come from forests of known location where the supplier has given us sufficient reassurance that the forest is legal, well-managed and independently certified or verified as such.

B&Q maintains a certified chain of custody for both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). All B&Q stores are covered and this allows us to give increased transparency of our extensive ranges of certified products to our customers.

B&Q's policy is based upon the policy of its parent company Kingfisher which aims to source timber only from proven, well-managed forests or recycled material. We do recognise that occasionally there will be a need for a “stepwise” approach to meeting the requirements of the timber policy so we have the following procurement and marketing rules:

### Acceptable:

- FSC Certified Sources will be accepted with **FULL** chain of custody certification in place throughout the supply chain.
- PEFC Certified Sources of non tropical species will be accepted with **FULL** chain of custody certification in place throughout the supply chain under the following exceptions:
  - PEFC certified sources of European wood are acceptable when supported with full chain of custody certification and confirmation from the vendor that all material used originated in Europe.
  - Other sources of PEFC certified wood will only be accepted when supported with full chain of custody certification AND evidence of independent assurance that the sources comply with the requirements of the FSC controlled wood standard (FSC-STD-40-005).
- Products which are made from pre- or post-consumer waste recycled must have 3<sup>rd</sup> party independent verification to prove material is recycled waste. Wherever practical, our internal printed material should be produced on 100% recycled paper.

In some cases B&Q may choose to apply additional verifications should the credibility of a certificate be in doubt or to obtain further assurances that the source complies with our aim.

### On product labelling:

To increase transparency for our customers, B&Q will encourage the use of FSC and PEFC logos on product packaging where there is a full chain of custody certification in place and where vendors have applicable logo licences. This will apply to all own brand and non-own brand products. On all own brand products, B&Q's FSC or PEFC Chain of Custody number will be used as applicable. When the product is made from recycled material, we will label it accordingly.

### Off product labelling:

The FSC and PEFC logos will be used in Trade literature in accordance with B&Q's Chain of Custody requirements and to increase transparency for trade customers. For all POS and other marketing literature, the use of the FSC and PEFC logos will be used under strict guidelines in compliance with B&Q's Chain of custody system.

### Conditional:

This exception will only be operated with the express and specific permission of the Social Responsibility Team at B&Q, on a project-by-project basis.

- Products made from timber from sources that are progressing towards certification, but only when there is an independently verifiable action plan being implemented to drive continuous improvement and ultimately certification. To qualify, the sources and their supply chain must:
  - Have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the The Forest Trust; or
  - Have an approved SmartWood SmartStep action plan and written contract to progress to FSC; and
  - We are also monitoring the progress of the WWF GFTN process in this regard. If this process proves to be suitable we will, as a minimum, expect

suppliers to provide evidence that they are members of WWF GFTN, have signed agreements with an FSC accredited certifier to achieve FSC certification of the forest source and must prove that an independently verified full chain of custody is in place.

### **On product labelling:**

Where timber has been sourced from The Forest Trust (TFT) projects, the TFT logo will be used with the prior approval from QA and TFT.

### **Special Exceptions e.g. new categories where fully compliant products may not be available:**

- The supplier must demonstrate that the forest sources comply with the timber policy – but, B&Q may grant the vendor a grace period in order to ensure fully certified chains of custody are in place in accordance with the policy. There will be a written commitment from the supplier to achieve full policy compliance within 6 months of the rollout of the successful trial and penalties will occur if compliance is not reached within that time.

This exception will only be operated with the express and specific permission of the Social Responsibility Team at B&Q, on a project-by-project basis.

### **Timber Reporting Requirements – products for sale**

A record of all products supplied, that contain timber or paper, must be available to B&Q as a part of Consent to Supply contract. All parts or components of products that contain timber or paper must be identified.

For each product identified as containing timber or paper, the following details must be included on its SAP new product input form:

- Timber certification scheme
- For Mixed Sources – minimum certified content (e.g. 50%, 70%, etc)
- Volume (m<sup>3</sup>) solid timber or tonnes, paper products
- Product Category (e.g. Fibreboard, Plywood, Paper, Sawn timber etc)
- Tree Species (Common Name)
- Country of origin of timber source (Where harvested/grown)

A random audit will be periodically carried out. Any product not meeting this policy will not be stocked and, if found in the business, will be discontinued to an agreed and appropriate timescale.

### **Further Information**

Further background information may be found at the following:

[www.diy.com](http://www.diy.com)

[www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)

[www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

[www.tft-forests.org](http://www.tft-forests.org)

or by contacting B&Q at [socialresponsibility@b-and-q.co.uk](mailto:socialresponsibility@b-and-q.co.uk)