



## WHAT IS THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)?

So many things in our lives come from forests. FSC helps take care of forests and the people and wildlife who call them home. So you can keep your life full of forest products while keeping our forests full of life.

### Why are forests important?

Our forests provide clean water, purify the air, maintain biodiversity, provide habitat for species, and play a central role in reducing the impacts of climate change. When managed responsibly, forests are also a source of renewable and recyclable products such as lumber, furniture, and paper. Canada's forests are also vital for the livelihood of Aboriginal and other forest dependent communities.

### What's the problem?

Overharvesting forests, or mismanagement of a forest, could lead to loss of plants and animal habitat; soil erosion could lead to floods; people that work in the forest could lose their jobs; lead to a loss of Aboriginal homelands and cultural landscapes and many other effects. Yet at the same time forests are one of the best renewable resources. This means forests can be replaced naturally and we can use them again and again for our everyday needs.

### How can FSC help?

FSC is an international certification and labelling system dedicated to promoting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically prosperous management of the world's forests. FSC was created in 1993 to help consumers and business identify products from responsibly managed forests. FSC has developed a system of forest certification and product labelling that enables people to identify responsibly sourced wood, paper and other forest products.

### How does it work?

FSC runs a global forest certification system with two key components: Forest Management and Chain of Custody. The certification process is carried out by independent organizations called certification bodies, which assess forest managers and forest product companies against FSC standards. FSC certification allows companies to label their FSC products which then enables consumers to choose products that support responsible forest management.

## What makes FSC forests special?

FSC-certified forests must be managed to the highest environmental, social and economic standards. The forests must be managed in a way that protects water, soil, and wildlife. Aboriginal Peoples, forest workers, industry, and forest owners try to come to consensus on how the forest will be managed. This is what makes the FSC system unique and ensures that a forest is well-managed, from protection of Aboriginal Peoples rights to the methods of harvesting trees.

## What do the labels mean?

The FSC label on a wood or paper product is your assurance that it is made with, or contains, fibre that comes from a FSC-certified forest or from post-consumer waste. FSC labels can also be found on non-timber forest products.



FSC 100%  
Products Made from  
100% virgin fibre  
from FSC-certified  
forests.



FSC MIX  
Products made from  
FSC-certified virgin  
fibre and/or recycled  
fibre mixed with  
controlled fibre.



FSC Recycled  
Products made  
from 100% recycled  
fibre.

## How can I help?

Choose FSC-certified products whenever you can. Look for the FSC labels on paper, wood and other forest products.

## Where can I find FSC certified products?

You can find FSC labels on a variety of wood and paper products including garden furniture, decking, sheds, office paper, tissue products, greeting cards and more. Stores such as Home Depot, Rona, Staples and many other retailers carry FSC-certified products.

## What should I do if I can't find FSC-certified products?

Although more and more FSC certified products are available all the time, there are still gaps in the market. If you cannot find a product, ask for it. The greater the demand, the bigger the supply. The FSC Canada office can also help to identify suppliers of specific products.