

Savoy and the Environment

Wood is a renewable resource and requires less energy than most to process into finished products (24 times more energy is used to produce 1 ton of steel). Wood is also low in toxicity and completely biodegradable. Wood enhances thermal performance and interior acoustics while providing long-term performance and durability.

John Savoy and Son, Inc., an American furniture manufacturer for over 50 years, implements as many environmentally conscious programs as possible and encourages its vendors to do likewise. For that reason, Savoy uses lumber suppliers who are recognized for implementing environmentally supported harvesting controls and green programs to perpetuate a better environment for all. 95% of our lumber is harvested within a 50 mile radius of our manufacturing facility. Savoy also utilizes the railroad system in raw material purchases, saving fuel. One rail car equals 3 trailer loads of plywood.

Our use of veneer core plywood in place of solid species of oak or maple in manufacturing minimizes the effect on the environment by providing a more complete use of the harvested tree. Trees used for veneer application extends the utilization by as much as 16 times more than solids applications. By extending the use through plywood manufacturing, future generations will be able to harvest trees and use them in similar manners. The advantages of using plywood are:

Environmental Investment – it's a natural product made from a renewable resource

Strength – pound for pound, plywood has been proven to be stronger than steel in static bending strength. It's the unique cross-layered structure that makes the plywood so strong. The adhesives used are actually stronger than the wood itself.

Efficiency – more complete utilization of the log, no sawdust results from the rotary cutting or slicing, greater square foot coverage in comparison to solid wood products is achieved by using veneer. Plywood manufacturing makes for efficient use of wood.






Our Wood Vendors

Columbia Forest Products, one of our plywood suppliers utilizes certified wood and no formaldehyde in their manufacturing processes of the PureBond® materials which is compliant with the United States Green Building Council in their LEED® program guidelines for Low-Emitting Materials.

Our main suppliers of lumber are recognized by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania for practicing and upholding the principles of the Sustainable Forestry Program. This program is a voluntary, industry-driven effort developed to ensure that future generations will have the same abundant, healthy, and productive resources we enjoy today. SFI program participants practice sustainable forestry on all the lands they manage. They also influence millions of additional acres through the training of loggers and foresters in best management practices and landowner outreach programs. Through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative of Pennsylvania program, landowners receive the information they need to enhance their ability to make good forest management decisions. Loggers learn safer, more productive skills and proper environmental practices. Numerous independent, unbiased, science-based studies comparing the SFI and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs have shown the two programs to be nearly identical when it comes to on-the-ground performance.

In addition, Savoy has in place many environmentally friendly production practices:

- ◆ The utilization of a technologically advanced ultraviolet (UV) finishing system. This system provides a material transfer rate from application to finished product in excess of 99%. It does not produce any substantial VOC's and is recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection as being compliant with all regulations. All stains used in finishing are water based which also reduces VOC's by as much as 90%. 
- ◆ The adhesives used are a water-based polyvinyl acetate emulsion. That means that they have a very low level of VOC's. In addition, they do not contain any formaldehyde or urea-formaldehyde, something that is of concern in today's composite wood market.
- ◆ Fuel oil processing and heating systems have been replaced with more efficient natural gas systems substantially reducing oil consumption and the release of airborne contaminants. Our facility has ceiling fans, return air units, and automatic thermostats to achieve efficient air flow.
- ◆ Waste streams such as used oils, cleaning fluids, and finishing materials are recycled to minimize waste. For example, an oil separator unit is attached to our compressed air system to contain all oily contaminants that are produced when compressing air as not to allow them to escape into our rain water drainage. These are then recycled.
- ◆ All wood wastes are recycled in the form of wood mulch or are utilized in heating systems locally. Saw dust collected by the extraction system is used as animal bedding by local farmers. Any cardboard waste in the plant is recycled locally. 
- ◆ Our bed springs are made of recycled railroad track by a local company.
- ◆ Our fabric manufacturers have a recycling program in conjunction with American Fibers and Yarns and most have their own environment statement working to preserve our environment.
- ◆ Lighting in our manufacturing plant and office area are being replaced with more efficient mercury free lamps.
- ◆ The utilization of a blanket wrapped shipping process in which items are wrapped in moving blankets made of recycled materials. These blankets can be re-used numerous times and this minimizes the amount of trees harvested for manufacturing shipping materials. 
- ◆ Savoy has adopted a No Smoking Policy in it's buildings and on the property which is compliant with the Clean Indoor Air Act.



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