

# Congratulations Homebuilders! You are Environmental Experts!

**Question:** Which popular building material continues to be the leading choice for reducing environmental impacts and building green?

**Answer:** If you chose wood, you are building green! You and other builders responsible for more than 80 million wood-frame, single family dwellings in the United States have made the responsible choice for years. Building with wood has always been and continues to be the right choice for our environment.

## Wood products are manufactured from a renewable resource

Homebuilders have always relied on domestic wood products to provide safe and affordable housing. Forests in the U.S. from which trees are harvested to make wood building products are reforested. In fact, our forests are growing faster today than they are being harvested. Natural forest regeneration coupled with planned efforts on the part of forest landowners will assure a source of wood products for future generations.

## Wood products are manufactured from a sustainable resource

Companies in the U.S. forest products industry are voluntarily implementing forest certification programs to assure their products originate from sustainable sources. Sustainability means much more than simply having fiber for the future, it means caring for soil, habitat, waterways, and your community.

## Wood products have the best environmental record of competing materials

Building with wood has benefits beyond the forest. The manufacturing process for wood products uses less energy and produces far less air and water pollution than processes for alternatives like steel and concrete. Healthy, growing forests also absorb more carbon dioxide than is released in the manufacturing process. By using wood products, builders are encouraging increased investment in forests and greater carbon sequestration.

## Wood products are strong, workable, and readily available

Traditional and engineered wood products are strong and readily available. They provide the design flexibility necessary to allow for long, open spans, while incorporating the natural beauty of wood.

## Wood products are recognized in the national model green homebuilding standard

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has developed a national green homebuilding standard to help builders do their part to protect our environment. This standard accurately recognizes the environmental benefits of wood products. Support the environment and your fellow builders by following a standard that encourages openness, balance, and due process.

👉 60% less energy is required to manufacture an exterior wood frame wall compared to a concrete wall.

👉 24% less energy is required to manufacture an exterior wood frame wall compared to an equivalent steel frame wall.

👉 300% more water pollutants are generated in manufacturing products for a steel home compared to a wood home. (CORRIM report)

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