

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS FACT SHEET



ACACIA

Acacia is a fast growing hardwood that can be planted and harvested without damaging the surrounding forest. It is biodegradable, grows in abundance, and is prized for its ecological stability. With a rich variety of tones, knots and grains, it isn't just beautiful, it's also functional: it does not absorb flavors and odors, making it ideal for culinary applications. It has been used for centuries for furniture and serving boards.



BAMBOO

Bamboo is a fast growing renewable resource, a true eco-conscious wonder. Bamboo can grow up to 3 feet per day - talk about renewable! It is strong like wood, but is actually a tree-like grass that is stronger than steel. It requires very little maintenance and has a natural resistance to pests - which means no potentially harmful pesticides or herbicides are needed to make it grow. That's not all! Bamboo also needs very little water to thrive - compared to equivalent tree mass, bamboo produces 35% more oxygen and can sequester 12 tons of carbon dioxide per hectare per year. Finally, bamboo keeps helping the environment even after harvest: bamboo maintains root structure post-harvesting, helping to prevent soil erosion and landslides.



PARAWOOD

(AKA RUBBERWOOD)

Parawood is a hardwood that comes from rubber trees felled at the end of their life cycle when they stop producing latex sap. Our parawood comes from well-managed rubber tree plantations where harvested trees are replenished with new trees to keep populations strong.



MANGO WOOD

Mango wood is a sustainable by-product of the mango trees that are grown for their fruit in India. For 7-15 years the trees produce mangoes, then they are harvested for their hardwood timber when they stop producing fruit. This makes way for new trees to continue producing fruit.



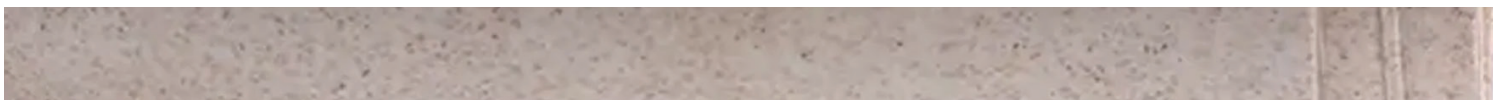
CARIBBEAN WALNUT

Also known as Tzalam, this beautiful, rich grain hardwood grows in Southern Mexico. It is resistant to water, humidity, and pests - buh-bye pesticides - and even helps enrich soil with nitrogen, improving conditions for other plants and its own saplings. The Caribbean Walnut has its own naturally sustainable growth process: as each tree grows, it scatters seeds around its base and more trees grow all around it.



SLATE

Slate is an abundant natural metamorphic rock composed of sedimentary or volcanic ash deposits. It has a very low environmental impact as processing needs are minimal. It pretty much just comes out of the ground looking like that! [Really!] Most items are handcrafted to size and used in their natural form.



WHEAT STRAW FIBER

Wheat straw is a by-product of harvesting grain. By using waste that would otherwise be burnt, wheat straw fiber reduces carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The naturally occurring lining that gives straw its rigidity can be combined with other natural ingredients to create a plastic-like material without using toxins in the manufacturing process. The wheat straw fiber is durable and biodegradable - it's like plastic in all the good ways and none of the earth-destroying ways.

rPET

rPET is created by shredding and melting down used PET products (such as plastic bottles) and reforming them into fiber that can be woven into a polyester type fabric. Not only is it made from recycled materials, the fabric itself is also recyclable - and biodegradable too. This process reduces the use of virgin plastic and encourages waste PET to be removed from the environment. First-use plastics can last hundreds of years in a landfill or the ocean - but when converted to rPET they become biodegradable. Sounds like magic, but it's just responsible science!



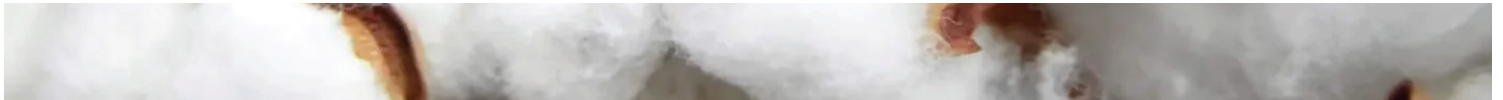
WILLOW

Willow is a fast-growing, renewable shrub that is naturally resistant to pests and disease - that means willow framing requires no pesticides or herbicides that can harm the environment. Willow can grow six feet in six months and can be harvested 6 times before replanting is required - and that means we can make a whole lot of classic picnic baskets before replanting is necessary. Most of our willow is grown on-site where the picnic baskets are woven, cutting the carbon costs of shipping materials from place to place. Willow is carbon neutral, filters heavy metals from the soil, and helps prevent soil erosion. It is impressively durable, and once it is dried and woven into baskets, it will last for generations. It is biodegradable at the end of its use-life, but that can be decades after the basket is produced. We used to just call them family heirlooms - now they can also help save the planet! People have been weaving baskets for over 29,000 years and they represent some of the first sustainable produced everyday objects.



RUSH

Rush has been used for centuries to weave baskets due to its durability, flexibility, and abundance. Rush is a fast-growing perennial that recovers well after harvesting from wetlands and marshes. It has a low environmental impact as cultivation requires minimal water, fertilizer, and pesticides. It is biodegradable and decomposes naturally, contributing to minimal waste.



ORGANIC COTTON

Organic cotton is generally considered to be better for the environment than conventional cotton. It is grown without the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, which can contaminate soil and water, harm wildlife, and pose health risks to farmers and consumers.

Organic farming practices improve soil health by building up organic matter and promoting biodiversity. This leads to better water retention, reduced erosion, and increased crop yields in the long term.

Organic cotton tends to require less water than conventional cotton. This is because organic soils hold onto water more effectively, and organic farming practices often involve water-saving techniques like crop rotation and cover cropping.

Organic farming practices can help to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon in the soil. Additionally, the production of organic cotton generally has a lower greenhouse gas footprint than conventional cotton.

Organic farms typically support a greater diversity of plant and animal life than conventional farms. This is because the lack of pesticides and fertilizers creates a more hospitable environment for beneficial insects, birds, and other organisms.