



B&Q Timber Policy and Buying Standards

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socialresponsibility
Community | Diversity | Ethical | ENVIRONMENT

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Introduction

B&Q's Timber Buying Policy

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

B&Q 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 sell does not harm forest conservation or the lives of people who live and work in forests. We remain committed to sourcing timber only from proven, well-managed forests and will continue to use our buying power to promote good forest management. We believe that the certification by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) currently offers the best evidence that wood is from well-managed managed forests.

B&Q's Timber Buying Policy is to:

- ensure that all the timber, timber-containing and paper products we sell come from forests independently certified as well managed, or from recycled materials. Where FSC certified wood is not currently available, we will source timber in partnership with organisations that have certified chain of custody procedures in place and are committed to improving forest management practices to acceptable standards;
- ensure that all tropical hardwood we stock is FSC certified or comes from suppliers and supply chains that have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tropical Forest Trust.
- ensure that all the timber and timber containing products we use in our property developments and in the maintenance of our premises come from forests independently certified as well-managed, or from recycled materials. Where FSC certified wood is not currently available, we will source timber in partnership with organisations committed to improving forest management practices to acceptable standards; and
- ensure that all certified or recycled timber, timber-containing and paper products we sell, are labelled appropriately. Where timber has been sourced from Tropical Forest Trust (TFT) projects the TFT logo will be used.

See 'B&Q Timber Buying Standards' for implementation details.

Kingfisher Timber Policy

B&Q's policy is based upon the Timber Policy of its parent group, Kingfisher plc. The Kingfisher Timber Policy, August 2006, recognises three tiers of certification, in order to guide policy implementation.

Tier 1: Sustainable Forestry Schemes

- Currently, FSC is the umbrella scheme that is the closest to fully meeting Kingfisher's criteria and FSC is therefore the preferred certification scheme;
- Kingfisher operating companies will work towards a scenario where only Tier 1 products are stocked; and
- Kingfisher will recognise as Tier 1 schemes that are independently recognised as equivalent to FSC and therefore meet the Kingfisher criteria.

Tier 2: Schemes in progress towards meeting Tier 1 requirements

- Schemes that have made a public commitment that endorsed forests will achieve Tier 1 standards within a maximum of three years; and
- Alternatively Tier 2 includes sources that are part of a verification scheme to demonstrate formal progress towards FSC certification, including members of the Tropical Forest Trust scheme.

Tier 3: Other Third Party Certification Schemes

- Forest certification schemes that meet some but not all of the Kingfisher criteria, and introduce some level of control in the supply chain. Products certified under these schemes are seen as being able to provide a better level of reassurance than no certification; and

Kingfisher's goal is to ensure that all timber falls within the three tiers of certification and operating companies are required to source timber accordingly, and progressively increase the proportion of timber in Tier One. This will be achieved through action plans implemented to agreed timescales.

B&Q fully support this position and this policy statement explains how we will comply, including a timescale for eliminating products certified under Tier 3 schemes. (for fuller details of the Kingfisher policy see www.kingfisher.com).

B&Q's Approach

Research and Review

The B&Q timber policy, originally launched in 1991, was reviewed during 2000 when we committed to an ongoing review of all certification schemes to ensure that our position was always up to date and in line with the current debate. In 2004 we commissioned the production of a review and qualitative comparison of global timber certification schemes, which informed our position and enabled us to update our policy, taking into account our criteria for credible schemes.

This year we have reviewed the changes made to the various certification schemes since our 2004 review against our criteria for credible certification schemes and used this to inform our decision on how to update our policy.

Criteria for assessing the suitability of Certification Schemes

B&Q, as well as the Kingfisher group as a whole, have adopted the following criteria for credible certification schemes, after discussion and consultation with key stakeholders.

A certification scheme must:

- a. Require internationally agreed sustainable forest management standards;
- b. Have the participation of all stakeholders including representative, environmental and social pressure groups;
- c. Require transparency in grievance procedures;
- d. Require independent and full chain of custody;
- e. Set minimum standards required for auditing;
- f. Require regular and relevant audit at forest level; and
- g. Possess an ability to be applied globally or endorsed by a global umbrella scheme.

The Future

B&Q are aware that the FSC policies are constantly evolving and B&Q will continue to work with FSC UK and FSC International to help ensure that changes are made with consideration of their impact in the retail industry.

B&Q Timber Buying Standards (Revised July 2006)

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

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.

B&Q recognises that FSC currently has the best available standards and certification procedures and strongly encourages all schemes and suppliers to work towards achieving FSC certification. B&Q will usually only buy products certified under the FSC scheme.

However, in line with the Kingfisher timber policy, B&Q do recognise other schemes that are working towards the goal of sustainable forestry and therefore we do also accept the following when FSC certified material is not available:

- Products certified by other schemes that have made public commitment that endorsed forests will achieve FSC standards within a maximum of three years.
- 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 either be:
 - Registered under the Certification Support Programme organised by SGS
 - Or have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tropical Forest Trust.
 - 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 to prove that an independently verified full chain of custody is in place.

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.

- PEFC certified sources of European wood are acceptable when supported with full chain of custody and a commitment with an agreed action plan in place to demonstrate independent verification of compliance with the controlled wood standard within six months.
- Products which are on a very limited sales trial within B&Q, but only when certification is achievable and there is commitment from the supplier to achieve certification within six months of the trial commencing. 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.

In every case, equivalent FSC certified products will be stocked in favour of the above exceptions assuming that all the other purchasing requirements are satisfied.

Timber Labelling Standards

To ensure that there is a simple message for our customers, B&Q will only use the FSC and TFT logos on its own brand products and in its marketing. For all the listed exemptions or when the message is too complex because of a variety of sources within the same product, B&Q will use a truth statement, backed up at all times by an independent chain of custody.

Timber Reporting Requirements

The following details about each timber-containing product must be included on its SAP new product input form:

- Species
- Timber certification scheme
- Product Category (e.g. Plywood, MDF, Sawn timber etc)
- Country of origin
- Chain of Custody details
- Volume (m³)

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.

Further Information

Further background information may be found at the following:

www.diy.com

www.fsc.org

www.fsc-uk.org

www.tropicalforesttrust.com

or by contacting B&Q at socialresponsibility@b-and-q.co.uk