

Opening New Markets for Our Customers:



Banks Earns FSC Certification



Banks Hardwoods, Inc. and Banks Hardwoods Florida, LLC are proud to announce that we have completed the certification process for the *Forest Stewardship Council*, and can now offer FSC certified hardwood lumber to our customers.

This has been an on-going process since last April and is one more step in our efforts, and those of our customers, to conduct business in a responsible environmental manner.

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As global consumers of hardwood products have become more conscious of the current environmental issues, there has been an increase in the demand for third-party certified hardwood lumber that comes from responsibly managed forests. Producing certified lumber is just one way our company contributes to the global effort for more environmentally friendly forestry.

FSC is the most widely recognized third-party certification system, and the only certification recognized by the *US Green Building Council*

(USGBC) *Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design* (LEED) program. We selected FSC not only for its global recognition, but also so that our customers will have access to certified lumber that would apply to USGBC projects.

The *Forest Stewardship Council* is an international non-profit organization that was established in 1993, with headquarters located in Bonn, Germany. As stated on the *Forest Stewardship Council's* web site, FSC was “*established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. Products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations.*”¹ In addition, “*The FSC standards represent the world's strongest system for guiding forest management toward sustainable outcomes.*”¹

Our employees are excited about our certification. We see the value behind this process and believe that to remain on the cutting edge and at the top of our industry,

we need to be open to continual improvement in our practices.

Becoming FSC certified is a big step toward a new level of environmental awareness and responsible resource stewardship. However, it is only one of the ways Banks Hardwoods is striving to be more “Green.” Our company has successfully implemented a number of environmentally sound management practices within our “Go Green” program.

We are currently drying FSC certified domestic hardwood lumber and have certified imported hardwood lumber available from all four locations in Michigan, Wisconsin and Florida. For more information on how your business can benefit, visit our web site or give us a call.

 **Banks
Hardwoods, Inc.**

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¹ Information a direct quote from www.fsc.org • FSC Logo: The mark of responsible forestry • Cert no. SW-COC-000010 • © 1996 Forest Stewardship Council A.C.