Understanding Wood: Sourcing Against the Grain

Wilsonart conducted a national survey of architects and designers and learned that these professionals need more information about the materials they specify, particularly when it comes to natural resources, to help make more informed decisions. Unvegetated, endangered, threatened, and vulnerable woods, protected forests and alternative materials that meet their aesthetic and functional needs.

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

KNOWLEDGE GAPS

Most respondents have a limited awareness of endangered wood.

- 99% of respondents couldn’t identify the majority of endangered and threatened wood.
- 24% were very familiar with the Lacey Act, which makes using responsibly harvested wood not only an ethical choice, but a legal responsibility.

- 71% of respondents believe they can discern wood sourced from illegal logging.

REGULATION FACTS

- One-third of tropical timber traded globally comes from illegal deforestation.
- 57 percent of Amazon tree species are threatened with extinction.
- Architects and designers can take steps to protect themselves and support responsible forestry.

- Prioritizing using responsibly sourced wood.
- Willing to pay more for legally sourced wood.
- Concerned about prosecution for using illegal wood.

- 70% of respondents believe it’s their duty to know which questions to ask of distributors and suppliers.
- 58% believe it’s their duty to get educated on endangered, threatened and vulnerable wood.
- 41% more confident they could discern wood that was harvested legally.
- 75% rely on sales and manufacturing reps to provide legally sourced wood.

MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS ARE:

- Women: 55%
- Men: 45%
- 43% designers
- 38% architects
- 11% specifiers
- 8% others

- 55% mixed ages
- 44% 18-34
- 43% 35-44
- 26% over 45

TAKING ACTION

Architects and designers can take steps to protect themselves and support responsible forestry.

1. Get educated on responsible policy and practice.
2. Study up on the Lacey Act.
3. Create internet guidelines and programs to help architects and designers.

Rosewood: Illegal to use since 2016, but 24% of respondents are still using it.

The Lacey Act protects wildlife and plants by regulating trade practices; recent amendments expand the scope to include products made from illegally logged wood.

Visit www.wilsonart.com/understanding-wood for more information and resources.