

LAUZON AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Q1. WHAT IS LEED®?

LEED® is an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and a trademark of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

The LEED® Green Building Rating System was developed to measure the environmental and energy performance of buildings. It is used to promote, build, operate and certify sustainable development buildings and installations. The LEED® Green Building Rating System takes into account construction objectives within the framework of sustainable development strategies.

Please note that building products cannot be LEED®-certified; only buildings can.

Q2. WHAT IS THE LACEY ACT?

The Lacey Act is a conservation law in the United States. It protects both plants and wildlife by creating civil and criminal penalties for a wide array of violations. It prohibits trade in wildlife, fish and plants that have been illegally taken, transported or sold.

It has been amended several times. A 2008 amendment included an anti-illegal-logging provision which makes it an offense to trade in products made from illegally-sourced agriculturally-based products, including wood products like flooring. It also requires US companies to document the source of the woods they sell or use for manufacturing.

Q3. WHAT ABOUT OUR EXOTIC SPECIES?

When Lauzon buys exotic species, we only source them from reliable suppliers and we ensure that the supply chain respects all legal certification.

Q4. WHAT IS CARB?

The California Air Resources Board, also known as CARB or ARB, is the "clean air agency" of the government of California charged with improving air quality in this State.

CARB has the strictest formaldehyde emission level standard known and we are way under it.

Q5. WHERE ARE LAUZON FLOORS MANUFACTURED?

The majority of Lauzon floors are manufactured in the province of Quebec in Canada and most of the wood used to make the floors is harvested from Lauzon's own responsibly managed forests. Lauzon does offer a limited selection of certain exotic woods and a select line of hand-crafted floors, but in all cases they are sourced from ethically managed forests and facilities and only comprise a nominal percentage of Lauzon's overall offering.

Q6. WHAT DOES FSC® STAND FOR?

The Forest Stewardship Council® is an international organization that promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. FSC® guarantees that the wood products you purchase come from responsibly managed forests and verified recycled sources. All Lauzon hardwood made of Canadian maple is FSC® certified – your assurance that the wood you are buying will be in the forest for generations to come.

Q7. WHAT ABOUT LAUZON WOOD FLOORING THAT IS NOT FSC® CERTIFIED?

Lauzon is committed to purchasing only ethically harvested products. As a case in point, Lauzon has consistently refused to buy Merbau timber, which is often illegally cut down from Indonesian forests.

Q8. ISN'T IT MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TO BUY A SYNTHETIC FLOOR THAT REPLICATES THE LOOK OF WOOD AND KEEP THE TREES IN THE FOREST?

No. Laminate and vinyl replicas may look like wood, but they are made from petroleum based products manufactured from non-renewable resources. Wood is a renewable resource and selective harvesting actually benefits the forest. As trees grow, they transform carbon dioxide (CO₂) into oxygen (O₂). But once trees become mature, this process actually stops. Mature trees actually begin release CO₂ into the atmosphere through decay or by burning in natural wildfires. By selectively harvesting mature trees and converting them into lumber for flooring, the carbon is actually stored indefinitely. And additionally, the removal of the trees provides more light and water for the young saplings which will actively transform carbon dioxide into oxygen. Plus natural, authentic floors like hardwood and stone can be enjoyed for several generations, outlasting any synthetic floor.