

Forest products are part of your life



*Forest products are part of the every day life of all Australians.
In 2001-02, Australia's native and plantation forests supplied more than
1 cubic metre of wood for every person in Australia, a total of about 24
million cubic metres.*

timber is natural, renewable & sustainable

Products from the forest help us in our daily lives.

Forest products and their uses

Trees are harvested to make a wide range of products used in daily life. Very little is wasted and almost all logs that leave the forest are converted into a useful product. There are two major types of wood products.

Solid timber products

Relatively straight, solid logs are converted into high value, solid timber products, used in construction, furniture, flooring and fittings. These logs can be sawn, sliced or peeled.

Sawing converts the logs into boards that are dried and milled into rectangular sections, strip flooring, architraves, or trims. These pieces can also be glued together to make glue laminated products such as bench tops and beams.

Slicing parts of the logs produces decorative veneer. This is used in joinery, furniture, kitchen cupboards and wall panels.

Peeling a log produces veneer that may be glued together to make plywood, or laminated veneer lumber (LVL), used in building homes and offices, boats, toys, furniture and joinery.

The parts of the log that cannot be sawn or sliced are redirected into wood fibre products.

Wood fibre products

Due to their shape or level of natural defect, many logs are unsuitable for solid wood products and are converted into wood fibre products, such as paper, cardboard, and particle board.

To make a uniform and easy to transport feedstock for these products, the logs are first converted to woodchips.

The majority of woodchips are used to make paper products, ranging from packaging material and cardboard to newsprint and fine writing and printing papers. Woodchips are also used for reconstituted timber products such as particle board, used in flooring, joinery and furniture, medium density fibre board used for furniture and lining, and hardboard.

Employment

Across Australia in 2001-02, the forest and wood and paper products industries directly employed 78,400 people and had a turnover of more than \$15 billion in 2000-01. Many of these jobs are in rural and regional areas.

