

TEN ANSWERS to Frequently Asked Questions

Want to explore these questions in more detail? Check out our How We Do It Series:



1 How Can Cutting Down Trees Be Sustainable?

Harvesting trees is sustainable when we grow as much or more than we harvest, and we do. Each year, we cut, on average, only about 2 percent of our forests, and we plant more than 100 million seedlings to replace the ones we cut. We believe trees are one of the most sustainable, versatile resources on the planet, and we intend to make sure our forests last forever.

2 Aren't You Contributing to Deforestation?

Deforestation happens when forests are permanently removed. We manage our forests on a continuous cycle of harvesting, replanting and growing, and we've been doing that for over a century. Not only does this not contribute to deforestation, it helps prevent it. That said, a small fraction of our forests are used for roads and landings, and we do buy and sell some land each year.

3 Why Do You Clearcut?

Clearcutting is the safest, most efficient method of harvest in the areas where we operate. It requires fewer roads and less activity on the land than other methods. Plus, large open spaces provide adequate sunlight for quickly growing trees that are shade-intolerant, which is mostly what we grow.

4 Isn't Cutting Trees Bad for Climate Change?

As trees grow, they absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen and store carbon. When we cut and convert trees into wood products, that carbon remains stored for the life of the product, which, in the case of residential homes, is usually many decades. And when we replant our forests, those trees start removing more CO₂ from the atmosphere. Wood is the ultimate green building material, especially compared with steel, concrete and plastic.

5 Why Do You Use Chemicals on the Land?

Chemicals help us regrow our forests after harvest. Fertilizer gives trees nutrients they need to grow faster. Herbicides combat weeds and invasive species that compete with growing trees for sunlight and water. We use highly regulated chemicals in the minimum amount needed to achieve management objectives—and we make sure it's done safely, efficiently and responsibly.

6 Do Animals Get Hurt From Forest Operations?

Large machinery and human activity in any environment could cause harm to some animals. However, most animals will leave active logging areas. We avoid disrupting breeding activities for sensitive species, and we protect rare, threatened and endangered species. We also leave tree buffers along waterways to protect aquatic habitat.

7 Do Forest Operations Impact Water or Soil Quality?

We prevent sediment from entering streams and other waterways by using tree buffers and well-designed culverts, bridges and roads. We follow best practices, developed through years of research and partnerships, to maintain soil health, and we follow strict laws and policies to minimize soil disturbance.

8 What Are Your Manufacturing Facilities Putting into the Environment?

Most of what you see coming out of our mills is steam. We comply with strict air, water and waste regulations; follow best-in-class standards; and use state-of-the-art control technologies to minimize our contribution to air pollution.

9 Do Your Products Have Chemicals in Them?

Our primary product, lumber, is made only of wood. Our engineered products use adhesives to hold them together. Some products are treated for additional protection, and we post all our product safety data sheets on our website.

10 Shouldn't We Stop Using Wood Products So We Can Save Forests?

This is a common misconception. The truth is, when we all use wood products, we create powerful demand that drives private landowners to keep growing and harvesting forests on a continuous cycle, forever. If we don't use wood products, the incentive to grow trees stops, and those forests could be converted for other uses that are less beneficial for the environment.