

Wood Flooring Sourcing Policy

INTRODUCTION AND VISION STATEMENT

As a leading North American importer and manufacturer of wood flooring, Brandywine International Hardwood (BIH) is committed to leveraging its influence in the marketplace to conserve, protect and, in degraded areas, restore natural forests. As a cornerstone of that commitment, BIH will pursue a Responsible Wood Flooring Sourcing Policy to promote the development of markets for environmentally-responsible forest products and in so doing shall

better manage and reduce the environmental impacts of our supply chain.

This Sourcing Policy applies to all of BIH's sourcing and hence impacts all of the subsidiary companies and channels that fall under the BIH umbrella, including Wood Flooring International, Tesoro Woods, Wood Floor Resource Group and its other entities. For more information, see www.bihardwood.com

For more information on our commitments to responsible sourcing please visit our website:

- [Wood - The Ideal Building Material](#)
- [BIH's Stepwise Sourcing History](#)
- [WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network- North America](#)

WOOD FLOORING
INTERNATIONAL

TESORO
WOODS

wood floor
resource group LLC


Eco Flooring

EcoFloor Series

To see all the other BIH Brands visit www.bihardwood.com

Preamble

BIH recognizes that to be a true leader in the wood flooring marketplace, we have a responsibility to the environment and, in particular, to promote the responsible management, conservation, protection and restoration of the world's forests. BIH is positioned to influence wood species usage and their sourcing in the market which, in turn, influences forest management.

BIH fully supports responsible forest management practices that promote ecosystem sustainability, biodiversity and long-term environmental, social and economic benefits. Furthermore, we seek sustainable sources of wood where the value-added production into flooring occurs in the country of a species' origin wherever possible.



“BIH fully supports environmentally and socially responsible forest management.”

Photo: FSC-certified forest Quintana Roo, Mexico

BIH will achieve this policy via a pragmatic stepped approach to responsible purchasing of forest products such as that laid out by the WWF North America Forest & Trade Network (GFTN-NA). BIH is committed to working with its suppliers to ensure we have sourcing transparency and that the environmental status of the supply chain continues to improve towards our goals. We will make every effort to work with our suppliers to assist them in implementing improvements within a reasonable time frame. If a given supplier is unable or unwilling to work with us to achieve the goals established in this policy, BIH will eliminate that source of supply and replace it with credible supply. If necessary, the species itself will be eliminated from our product offerings if no credible supply for that wood can be found.

BIH hereby establishes the following policy commitments

- 1. BIH will work with all its vendors and their associated suppliers to trace the origin of the wood being used in our current supply chain:

Explanation: *Traceability in the forest product supply chain is crucial to assessing whether or not the forest products used were derived through environmentally-responsible means. BIH will attempt to determine not just where current products were purchased, but where they were grown, taking into account the possible necessity for third-party verification.*

- 2. BIH will require that all vendors and associated suppliers demonstrate compliance with all the local legal requirements for forest management, harvest, manufacturing and trade, with third party verification possibly required in areas / trades we determine as high risk.

Explanation: BIH will work to ensure that no market advantage is realized by entities that circumvent the law, and encourage support for the local forest conservation, protection and environmental law enforcement mechanisms.

- 3. BIH will eliminate its purchases of wood products from unverified sources in controversial source areas. These areas include geographic areas with blatant violations of forest protection laws, indigenous rights, and/or areas of armed conflict. Furthermore, we will not use genetically modified trees.

Explanation: BIH shall not knowingly give support to countries, governments and suppliers whose use (or abuse) of local forestry practices have a detrimental impact on civil society or the environment. BIH will remain aware of controversial source areas that may be identified by internal and/or external stakeholders, and will adopt a precautionary approach in sourcing from such areas.

- 4. BIH will eliminate its purchase of wood products harvested from high conservation value forests unless these operations are credibly certified or committed to progressing towards certification within a reasonable time-frame.

Explanation: BIH shall not knowingly buy from sources that utilize poor forest harvesting practices which lead to environmental degradation in areas with high conservation values.

- 5. BIH will promote the appropriate and efficient use of wood by implementing efficient sawing and production techniques in the production of our wood flooring. Additionally, in the design of our products we shall make increasingly better use of the wood resource. Furthermore, BIH shall incorporate increasing use of recycled sources into our product lines.

Explanation: BIH shall contribute to efforts that maximize the use of the entire fiber resource available to us and to also develop products which incorporate recycled content.

- 6. BIH will advocate and incorporate the use of sustainability-based criteria in selecting species and their sources as well as in developing product formats and lines.

Explanation: BIH intends to promote life-cycle assessment as well as including sourcing and resource utilization as a metric of product development.

- 7. BIH will give sourcing, product development and marketing preference to products sourced from credibly certified, well-managed forests and/or wood products from recycled sources. Additionally we will seek suppliers which have made a commitment to responsible sourcing.

Explanation: BIH intends to promote the development of markets for environmentally preferable products by supporting certification of sustainable and other best management practices through the purchase of credibly certified forest products. BIH will additionally promote the sourcing of wood products from forests which are committed to a time-bound and transparent stepwise process to achieve this credible certification.

- 8. BIH will publish on its web site an annual report, which will detail our progress in implementing this policy and show our commitment to continuous improvement. www.bihardwood.com

Explanation: BIH will maintain open communications and collaborative relationships with all those interested in our sourcing performance by providing detailed reports on the environmental aspects of our wood flooring supply chain on an annual basis. BIH will seek the views of key stakeholders when assessing performance of this policy and related programs and in the development of new policy and targets.