

Myth vs. Fact – FSC Certified Bamboo

As the world's leading manufacturer of environmentally friendly bamboo flooring, panels and veneer, Teragren is committed to both environmentally responsible and sustainable business practices. As the industry's pioneer since 1994, our company has upheld its mission to help reduce dependence on dwindling timber resources by manufacturing bamboo products from sustainably harvested bamboo grown in the Zhejiang and Jiangxi Provinces of China. We take special care to support farmers and their families by paying fair market value for raw materials and by encouraging proper stewardship of this valuable resource.

Teragren supports sustainable forest management practices through organizations such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC certification is designed to provide sustainable alternatives to harmful forestry practices that contribute to habitat destruction, water pollution and harm to the wildlife that dwells there. While we are giving careful consideration to working with the FSC to document the management practices of the bamboo forests, we feel it is important to weigh the cost/benefit of doing so, since the existing sustainable management practices we incorporate are already aligned with the guidelines provided by the FSC. Additionally, while FSC certified wood can provide LEED credits through the U.S. Green Building Council, bamboo does not currently qualify nor will it qualify for LEED credits under the changes being recommended for 2009. Regardless, we remain absolutely committed to manufacturing not only beautiful, durable and renewable® products—we are also committed to doing so in the most environmentally conscious and responsible manner possible.

Bamboo is an ideal alternative to hardwoods because, unlike hardwood trees requiring more than 60 years to mature, bamboo is a renewable grass that can be sustainably harvested over and over from the same plant. Our bamboo is never clear-cut, and grows naturally within lush, biologically-diverse native forests. We harvest sustainably within these forests, which have existed as they are today for thousands of years, to ensure that they continue to thrive. Our bamboo products are manufactured with Optimum 5.5™ Moso bamboo which is harvested at maturity (between 5-1/2 and 6 years) to ensure a durable finished product and the sustainability of the root system itself. These practices support the long-term health of bamboo, the environment in which it lives, and the people whose livelihood depends on the ongoing harvest of these materials. *(continued on pg 2)*

Teragren's products are naturally friendly to the environment. Carbon sequestration is one of the most effective ways for reducing the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. As trees soak up carbon dioxide from the air, they produce clean oxygen in return. Bamboo releases 35 percent more oxygen than a comparable cluster of trees, thus sequestering—or "locking up"—the carbon from the carbon dioxide it consumes. Bamboo flooring and panel products will last for generations if maintained properly, locking up carbon over the life of the product.

The steamship lines Teragren uses for ocean transport are members of the *Business for Social Responsibility Clean Cargo* program, dedicated to managing the environmental footprint of goods transported globally. Our studies show that Teragren's products sequester significantly more carbon dioxide than is released during transportation. Additionally, all of our products are manufactured in facilities that are ISO 14001 and ISO-9001 certified through the *International Organization for Standardization*, designed to promote standards that meet the requirements of business and the broader needs of society.

For more information, visit www.teragren.com, email info@teragren.com or call us at 800.929.6333.

Members: U.S. Green Building Council, Business for Social Responsibility

