



Benefits of Timber

Wood is a natural and renewable resource. As it grows, it stores CO² from the atmosphere and replaces it with oxygen.

Wood is grown in sustainably managed forests, which, in Europe are growing faster than they are being harvested. Europe's forest area increased by 13 million hectares in the last 15 years - an area the size of Greece ⁽¹⁾.

Every year around the world, approximately 60 million cubic metres of timber are used to make pallets and packaging; around 25 million cubic metres of this timber is used in Europe.

The more wood we use, the more trees are planted.



Timber Pallets, Packaging & Climate Change

Every cubic metre of wood absorbs approximately one tonne of the greenhouse gas CO² – so a single timber pallet stores around 27kg of carbon.

In Europe, there are more than four billion pallets in circulation: that's 108 million tonnes of carbon absorbed and stored.

Re-usable, Repairable & Recyclable

Pallets and packaging made from wood are not only environmentally friendly, they are also incredibly easy to repair - with a material that is widely available.

The European timber industry makes good use of every part of a harvested tree, from the main trunk to thinnings and smaller offcuts. Timber pallets and packaging utilise smaller logs and falling boards removed from larger pieces as part of this highly efficient cascade model.

When they get to the end of their useful life, pallets and packaging are used in a variety of ways: energy recovery (heating), landscape mulch, animal bedding, soil enhancements, wood particle board or pressed wood pallets.

Pallets and packaging made from plastics cannot be repaired or recycled in the same way. A timber pallet is also up to six times lower in price than its plastic equivalent.



A Natural Choice for Food Transport

Wood products are used in domestic and professional kitchens all over the world: in chopping boards; worktops; kitchen utensils; kebab skewers; toothpicks; lolly sticks and wine barrels to name a few ⁽⁴⁾. With natural strength, flexibility and antibacterial properties ⁽⁵⁾, wood has long been the material of choice for the crates, boxes and pallets used in the transport and distribution of food.

¹ Cei-bois, European Confederation of woodworking industries, 2004: http://www.cei-bois.org/files/b_03500-p01-84-ENG.pdf

² Fefpeb Web Site ³ Wood-food, 2009: <http://www.wood-food.com/> ⁴ Wood in Food - Wood, waxed wood, plywood, polyethylene and stainless steel - a comparison of hygienic properties. Grete Lorentzen et al. 2001 Danish Technological Institute