

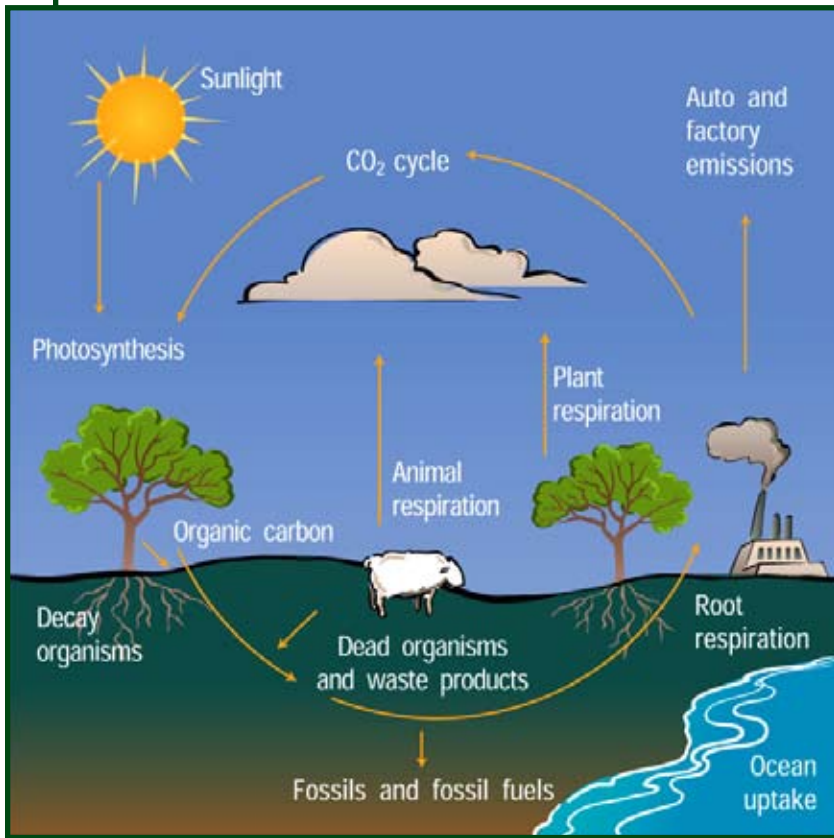
Fast Facts on

AMERICAN HARDWOODS

- **Homegrown** – Don't search the globe for renewable and sustainable materials: American hardwoods fit the bill! From alder and cherry, to the oaks and walnut—to name just a few—American hardwoods have been bringing warmth and beauty to the built environment for centuries.
- **Selection** – Nearly two dozen abundant species provide plenty of color, grain and pattern. American hardwood forests offer more choices than any other temperate hardwood forest in the world.
- **The Natural Choice** – American hardwoods are the natural choice for environmentally conscious builders, architects and designers looking to specify green materials.
- **Healthy** – American hardwoods are ideal for healthy environments. They don't trap dust, dirt and other allergens. Low-VOC finishes keep hardwoods looking great and performing well.
- **Renewing Resource** – The USDA Forest Service reports that more hardwoods grow than are harvested each year. Since 1953, the volume of hardwoods in American forests has increased 119%. Supply is increasing, and it is sustainable.
- **Natural Regeneration** – By mirroring natural occurrences, hardwood forestry practices are a long-established form of biomimicry that supports natural regeneration.
- **Responsible Harvesting** – In American hardwood forestry, the predominant harvesting method is single-tree selection—not clear-cutting. Foresters choose individual trees for harvest based on a complex array of considerations.
- **Life Cycle Costing** – When considering life cycle costing, the useful life of American hardwoods can span generations, making them more favorable and cost effective than most other materials.
- **Energy Efficient** – It takes less energy to make products from wood than other materials. Making products from aluminum, glass, plastic, cement or brick can require as much as 126 times more energy than making them from wood.
- **Carbon Negative** – Healthy trees reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere by removing carbon dioxide, storing carbon and releasing oxygen.
- **Easy on the Environment** – Virtually every part of a log is used as lumber or by-products, and finished products are re-useable, recyclable and biodegradable.
- **Certification** – Only about 14% of U.S. forests are certified because 69% of all timberland in the U.S. is owned by private individuals and firms.



More Incredible Facts about Hardwood



Graphic created by the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) is the evaluation of a product's impact on the environment through its total existence. When considered through LCA against other materials, hardwoods are favored for their extremely long service life, low carbon footprint, and eco-friendly disposal or repurposing at the conclusion of their useful lives. We need to be knowledgeable about our options. American hardwoods are one of the most environmentally-friendly building and design materials.

Conversion of hardwood into products such as window frames, furniture, flooring, cabinetry, and doors contributes to the long-term sequestration of carbon. Growing trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and separate the carbon and oxygen atoms. They return the oxygen to the air and use just the right amount of carbon to grow trunk, branches and leaves. The unused carbon is stored, or sequestered, for the life of the tree and the products made thereof. Incorporating more hardwood into our lives makes a significant difference in lessening our carbon footprint.



A solid hardwood floor, like this maple floor, can add beauty and durability for a lifetime. © Tripp Smith

Wood products make up 47 percent of all industrial raw materials in the U.S., but consume only 4 percent of the total energy required to manufacture those raw materials.* Talk about energy efficiency—hardwood is good and it makes good sense to use it!

*www.apawood.org



American Hardwoods
Treasured for Generations™