

Wood: The **MAGICAL** Material from the Forest



Wood is truly a magical material. Right now you are surrounded by wood and paper products that make your life better every day. For example, wood flour and melamine resins using cellulose filler are used to make everything from football helmets to TV cabinets and even sausage casings, yes, sausage casings! Turpentine and tall oil reclaimed from the paper-making process are used in paints, soaps, and polishes; related oils are used to make detergents, toothpaste, and shampoos. The anticancer drug, Taxol, is obtained from the bark of a Pacific yew tree.

Some of the many thousands of products made from trees are listed below.

Look around you now and see how many you can find.

Paper products

computer paper, library books, coffee filters, tissues, disposable diapers, postage stamps, paper towels, milk cartons, paper plates, movie tickets, newspapers, animal bedding, grocery bags, building insulation, playing cards

Solid Wood Products

lumber and plywood to build new homes, furniture, toothpicks, baseball bats, canoe paddles, guitars, backyard play sets, ax handles, charcoal, wooden blocks, rulers, birdhouses, crutches, fences, sleds

Bark

corks, anticancer drugs, shoe polish, cosmetics, poultry bedding, oil spill control agents, garden mulch, spices

Torula yeast (wood sugars recovered during the pulping process)

baby foods, imitation bacon, cereals, vegetarian foods, baked goods, beverages

Cellulose

rayon and tencel clothing, sanding sealers, pressure sensitive adhesives (tape), floor tiles, toothpaste, carpeting and upholstery backsides, food additives and thickeners, handles for screwdrivers and other tools, football helmets and hardhats, carbon paper, piping for irrigation systems, plastic twines, computer cases, luggage, placemats, sandwich bags

Lignosulfates (from spent sulfite pulping liquid) cleaning compounds, ceramics, pharmaceuticals, insecticides, hair spray, deodorants, fungicides, grouting, laundry stain remover, artificial vanilla flavoring

And don't forget RECYCLING

The story doesn't end when a product is made. Many of these products are routinely recovered and recycled. Recycled paper is used in everything from newsprint to corrugated boxes and writing papers. Some products, such as egg cartons, cereal boxes, and tissue are made entirely of recycled fiber. Paper is THE most recycled material of all those that are routinely recycled.

Source: American Forest and Paper Association, www.afandpa.org