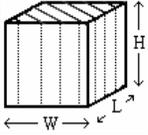


**MAGICAL
ONE-INCH
CUBE**



Wood Science and Forest Products
Virginia Tech
(540) 231-8853

**Wondering about
wood?**

Wood is a magical material, used in many ways.

Wood and its components are used in over 5000 products around the world.

**Wood has many other important features.
Read on to learn about wood, the magical material...**

For more information
please contact

Department of
Wood Science and
Forest Products

Virginia Tech

Blacksburg, VA

(540) 231-8853



Prepared by Christina Pugh and Audrey Zink-Sharp,
July, 2002

AMERICA'S ONE INCH CUBE

- ◆ This one-inch cube contains 5 million wood cells
- ◆ Each of these cubes can be used to make 70 sheets of photocopy paper
- ◆ Americans recycle approx. 43 million tons of paper each year, that is about 325 billion of these one-inch cubes, every year
- ◆ The average American uses 3 pounds of wood daily, that is approx. 100 of these cubes each day
- ◆ There are about 7 different types of cells in this cube. They resemble straws in their shape and function
- ◆ America's forests, acre-for-acre, are the most productive in the world
- ◆ Paper grocery bags are biodegradable (a plastic bag would be in a landfill 1,000 years from now)
- ◆ Nearly half of the world's population depends on wood as its major source of fuel for heating and cooking

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AMERICA'S ONE INCH CUBE

- ◆ Wood products require less energy to produce than products made from steel, aluminum, and concrete
- ◆ Inch for inch, wood is 16 times more efficient as an insulator than concrete, 415 times more efficient than steel, and 2000 times more efficient than aluminum
- ◆ In one day, an average tree exhales enough oxygen to keep a family of four breathing
- ◆ One acre of trees can remove about 13 tons of dust and gases every year from the surrounding environment
- ◆ America's forest products industry provides jobs for one and a half million Americans and contribute more than \$200 billion to the national economy
- ◆ 100% of the tree can be used in the manufacturing process for wood and paper products
- ◆ Each year, the forest community plants 1.5 billion tree seedlings, that is more than 5 new trees for each American

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AMERICA'S ONE INCH CUBE

- ◆ 75% of all paper recovered in the U.S. is recycled into new paper and paperboard products, the other 25% is exported to other countries or reused
- ◆ U.S. pulp and paper mills recover approx. 98% of all chemicals used to produce pulp from wood chips
- ◆ Americans recycle nearly 70% of the 6 million newspapers we buy each day
- ◆ Paper is the most recycled product in the U.S. today
- ◆ There are more than 5000 products that are made from trees
- ◆ Trees are the longest living and largest living organisms on Earth
- ◆ Harvesting trees produces healthy, growing forests that do a better job for our environment than older, decaying ones
- ◆ Modern forest management techniques ensure that we have healthy, growing trees for the future!

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