

Case Study

Partner: Solid wood manufacturer, Mysuru

Project: Solid wooden furniture



**Canadian
Wood**

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Bed, side table and chest of drawers manufactured in western hemlock and Douglas-fir, stained to a teak finish

Canadian Wood species:

Well priced alternatives for producing high value solid wood furniture

Manufacturer profile:

This established solid wood products manufacturer has been in business for almost 30 years and has a well-earned reputation for their fine quality wooden and institutional furniture. They make a range of solid wood and composite furniture for hotels, commercial offices, and residential development markets. They have a state-of-art manufacturing plant and pan-India presence.

With an immense understanding of the Indian furniture market, the manufacturer is currently using Teak, Mahogany, Padauk, Silver Oak, and several other hardwood species.

Challenge

From the consumer's standpoint, beauty of design, functionality, appearance, and strength are paramount. Manufacturers of furniture for the Indian market have a long tradition of working with wood to create highly crafted pieces that are passed down through generations. Today's modern customers want to have the same high quality wood furniture in sleek and contemporary designs with quick installations.

The company is concerned about the declining quality and the availability of the hardwoods that they use and are looking for alternatives.

Opportunity

Product trials were initiated to test the suitability of Canadian Wood species from British Columbia (B.C.). Providing a suitable alternative, FII India* sent test samples of western hemlock, western red cedar, yellow cedar and Douglas-fir and spruce-pine-fir (SPF).

**Market development agency for Canadian Wood from British Columbia.*

To reduce the long drawn process of producing suitable raw material, sawn lumber from B.C. is the answer. It is seasoned to the correct moisture content and graded to suit the needs of the manufacturer.

Another critical aspect is that whenever there is logging/harvest activity, there is disturbance to the environment. However, B.C., Canada manages this by having forest management laws and voluntary certification that consider all aspects of the environment which strives for the least disturbance possible. B.C. is the world leader in sustainable forest management and wood procured from B.C. is 100% certified by FSC/PEFC.



Canadian Wood SPF lumber being used in factory

Process & Products

As machine ready products, they were able to very quickly incorporate the wood into their system and produced:

- Swimming pool recliner – western red cedar
- Single cot 3 x 6.5 feet - western hemlock
- Bed side table – Douglas-fir
- Chest of drawers - western hemlock
- Miniature door and frame set - SPF and yellow cedar

The production team was delighted with the working properties of the wood and the ease with which they took stains and coatings. Most of the wood species from British Columbia (B.C) are light in colour when compared to traditionally used species. Therefore, they have high versatility as they can be given clear or light lacquers to maintain their lustrous sheen, or stained darker to mimic hardwoods.

The solid wood products manufacturer immediately purchased two containers of yellow cedar select tight knot grade (STK) for door frames.



Outdoor pool lounge in western red cedar

Key Takeouts

Improved manufacturing efficiency

Bringing in seasoned, sawn lumber graded to your needs entirely circumvents the cumbersome process of using logs and dealing with handling, waste and the enormous amount of time needed to season the product and bring it into a user-friendly form.

Canadian Wood can be used to replace Teak and other traditionally used hardwoods

B.C. coastal species are a good fit for use in India for solid wood furniture and door manufacturing. Durability of yellow cedar and western red cedar is equal to Teak, while yellow cedar STK's price is 1/3rd of Teak. Western hemlock and Douglas-fir are great alternatives for furniture due to their working properties and attractive appearance.

Why Use Canadian Wood?

Sustainable, Green Building Material

British Columbia, Canada is a world leader in sustainable forest management. The rigor of B.C.'s forest management laws is demonstrated by third-party forest certifications (PEFC/FSC).

Long-Term Performance

Wood's versatility, character and individuality are unmatched. When it is properly maintained, wood can be reused, repurposed, and reapplied to other projects. Canadian wood species produce stable lumber with consistently straight grain. The wood is easy to work, finish and glue.

Easy to Manufacture

With low to moderate density values, species like western hemlock, Douglas-fir, yellow cedar, western red cedar and Spruce-Pine-Fir (S-P-F) are all easy to face-laminate, edge-glue, and/or finger-joint.

Quality Assurance

Canadian wood species from B.C. are separated into a wide variety of grades and each grade is intended for a specific end use. Factory grades are intended for ripping or cross cutting to recover the wood's clear fibre; the clear grades help produce knot-free products in a length range of 8-20 feet. This variety of grades allows buyers to choose a quality that suits both their needs and their price considerations.

Multipurpose Applications

Because of their low tangential to radial shrinkage (T/R) ratio, softwoods typically have better stability than hardwoods. Softwoods are well suited to many applications across outdoor, interior and structural uses.



If you're interested in incorporating Canadian wood species into your product line, the 'Try Canadian Wood' initiative is an ideal way to use, experiment and understand wood's numerous advantages.

For free technical/procurement assistance write to FII India at info@canadianwood.in or call +91 2249221600.

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Updated November 2021

Canada 

Western hemlock | Douglas-fir | Yellow cedar | Western red cedar | Spruce-Pine-Fir (S-P-F)

FII India has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided with input from each trial partner.

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