

Western hemlock – the creative canvas for sustainable indoor furniture



Range of Western hemlock furniture – sustainable and functional

It's interesting to note that Canadian wood species like Western hemlock have come into lime light in recent times for all indoor furniture needs. Post COVID, consumers, architects, artisans, dealers and designers – the entire ecosystem have become aware of sustainable materials for furniture requirements. In fact the entire furniture industry is going through a revolution in environment friendly and sustainable practices. Be it supply chain transparency, local, ethical sourcing, or the use of recyclable and natural materials



Western hemlock

Without doubt, wood is the choice of material when it comes to indoor furniture. And Canadian wood species especially Western hemlock have caught the attention of architects and designers for their indoor furniture needs. It's heartening to note how, this species perfectly fits the current trends seen in choice of sustainable indoor furniture material. Western hemlock embraces these trends and is contributing towards an environment friendly and sustainable furniture designs. **Some of these trends are:**

- The use of natural, recyclable and non-toxic material
- Sustainably sourced or manufactured
- Multi-functional and space saving designs while promoting a minimalist and clutter-free lifestyle
- Integrating traditional designs for bespoke furniture with local artisans and skills
- Customers are experimenting with new styles, designs and colors. Today, furniture is a lifestyle statement and extension of the homeowner's personality.
- Light lacquered, easy to move furniture is in demand. Dark and heavy tones are not in vogue anymore



Sustainability is the order of the day

Heightened consumer awareness and exposure to international trends, has made consumers more eco-conscious who increasingly demand products made with legally harvested certified wood from sustainably managed forests. Needless to mention that B.C. Canada is one such long term source of wood with species that are well suited to evolving consumer preferences. All Canadian wood species including Western hemlock are sourced from the forests of B.C., Canada. B.C., Canada is the world leader in sustainably managed forests with the highest rates of certification worldwide—over 41 million hectares. Canada has 10% of the world's forests and 35 percent of all certified forests globally—the largest of any country worldwide.



Dining table - Range of design and finish possible with Western hemlock

Western Hemlock, one of the five species from Canadian Wood is ideal for furniture and wood interiors. It is a perfect canvas for architects and designers for their creative expression. For them, it offers a blend of functionality, modern sensibility (as in sustainably sourced material demanded by consumers) and design while making their furniture.



Versatile look, design and finish of beds made with Western hemlock

Western hemlock - most preferred species for furniture by architects and designers



- Has a fine texture and a straight, uniform grain
- Excellent machining properties
- Planes, shapes and sands well
- Good strength-to-weight ratio
- Has very good nail holding capacity
- Polishes beautifully
- Popular applications include furniture, solid doors, FJEG doorframes, millwork including mouldings and trim as well as architectural decorative features.
- It is available as ready-to-use lumber which is seasoned uniformly in dry kilns. This enhances its resistance to decay and insect attack

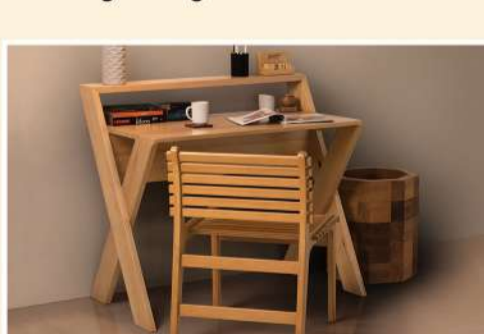


Plain simple to stained and bespoke – chest of drawers

Physical properties

Strength (MOR) 81 MPa (considered good as compared to traditional hardwoods)
Stiffness (MOE) 12300 MPa (considered better than popular hardwood species)
MOE= Commonly used to measure the relative stiffness and degree of deflection of the material when force is applied and then released.

MOR= Commonly used to measure the relative strength of the material under pressure. It measures how much the material will bend before it breaks from the force applied and often referred to as 'bending strength'



Study table – wide range of designs and look

An opportunity to experience the excellent working properties of Western hemlock for manufacturers



Cabinet designs

To tap into new trends and to showcase how Western hemlock could be used in modern, stylish furniture applications, Canadian Wood has partnered with few well-known furniture manufacturers and exporters through the 'Try Canadian wood' program. They were provided technical assistance and materials. The result was an artistic range of indoor furniture (also featured here) that included sofas, chairs, a console, chests of drawers, side tables and more. Many of these trials resulted in successful long term preference for Western hemlock by well known designers and manufacturers.



Designer and bespoke furniture

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