



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?



Bamboo: A Green Alternative

Trying to integrate green criteria into your everyday shopping can be a daunting experience. However, one good measurement of a green alternative is whether or not the item being purchased is made from sustainable materials. So, what does this term mean, and how do you apply it to your shopping choices?

What Is A Sustainable Material?

A sustainable material is one that does not deplete the resource from which it is derived faster than that resource can be replenished. This eliminates items that are made from petroleum and petro-chemicals, which cannot be replenished. So looking for products made from natural, renewable components is the first criteria in evaluating potential purchases. In addition, sustainable materials come from easily renewable resources. This means that the resource grows quickly or is produced quickly in nature. In addition, the use of sustainable materials results in a minimal impact on the environment.

Why Bamboo?

Bamboo has become one of the more widely recognized of these sustainable options. Why? While trees are a natural, renewable resource, most hardwoods take decades to grow to a size that's big enough to harvest. By contrast, bamboo grows quickly and can be harvested every three to five years. In addition, bamboo needs little care. That virtually eliminates the use of pesticides and fertilizers in the cultivation of bamboo, thus significantly reducing the environmental impact of its agricultural production.



Manufacturers have discovered uses for bamboo in everything from clothing to building materials. Bamboo has been found to be an excellent wood alternative for use in flooring, paneling, window blinds and veneers. Bamboo can also be processed into fibers or filaments that can be used to produce fabrics of all weights and descriptions. Bamboo towels and bed linens are now commonly found in stores, as are articles of clothing made from bamboo.

This versatile plant grows quickly in a wide range of climates. Bamboo has been used as a building material for centuries, especially in tropical regions where it grows into larger diameter canes. Its strength and durability make it an ideal for a wide variety of uses. So, purchasing products made from bamboo can help you to contribute to a more sustainable marketplace.



**When it comes to taking care of our environment....
How do you MEASURE UP?**