

## Why Wood Floors Are Greener.

Not only are maple hardwood gymnasiums beautiful, durable, and cost effective, they are also a green choice

- wood offers excellent sound insulation, and is resistant to heat, frost, corrosion and pollution, the only factor that needs to be controlled is moisture

-according to the MFMA, Northern hard maple flooring is a green choice because to is “renewable, recyclable, biodegradable, and re-useable.”<sup>i</sup>

-because this hardwood grows above the 35<sup>th</sup> parallel in a climate that has long winters and shorter growing seasons, the wood is denser (stronger). Dense wood is highly durable in addition to a rich and consistent colour with minimal imperfections. <sup>ii</sup>

-unfortunately, wood industries are lagging behind their competitors in advertising. Wood substitutes are often inaccurately portrayed as environmentally sound. Consequently, as a result of clever marketing, wood substitutes have gained popularity in the consumer market with the inaccurate representation that wood substitutes are environmentally friendly.<sup>iii</sup>

-sustainable forest management practices positively impact the economy, as well as facilitating social gains which include direct and indirect employment in forestry industries. In addition, sustainable practices can create environmental benefits such as “conservation of biodiversity, soil and water resources.”<sup>iv</sup>

-a review of the use of wood products and sustainable development found that, “as well as being important in the global carbon cycle, forest products have an important role to play in the development of a sustainable low carbon economy, through the production of renewable fuels and products that produce less greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per unit than most mineral or oil based products.”<sup>v</sup>

-voc emissions, safety, life cycle, and recyclability are all factors that need to be considered when comparing a hardwood gymnasium flooring installation to a poured floor (synthetic) sports floor or rubber sports flooring installation.

-wood is biodegradable, natural, renewable and when harvested with low impact logging, has numerous benefits including the maintenance of biodiversity and the promotion of soil integrity.<sup>vi</sup>

-“low impact logging allows forests to continue ‘to provide economic potential through continued protection of timber resources in an environmentally sustainable manner.”<sup>vii</sup>

-the emissions produced by the harvesting and production of maple hardwood flooring are less than the production of non-renewable, wood alternative products.<sup>viii</sup> In

addition, poured sports flooring can take longer to install (increased installation costs) with higher upfront costs.

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<sup>i</sup> Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association, Inc. (MFMA).  
[www.maplefloor.org/literature/MFMA\\_Resid\\_Broch08.pdf](http://www.maplefloor.org/literature/MFMA_Resid_Broch08.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Hannah Reid, Saleemul Huq, Aino Inkinen, James MacGregor, Duncan Macqueen, James Mayers, Laurel Murray and Richard Tupper. "Using Wood Products to Mitigate Climate Change: A Review of Evidence and Key Issues For Sustainable Development." (January 2004).

[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/rome2007/docs/Using\\_wood\\_products\\_to\\_mitigate\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rome2007/docs/Using_wood_products_to_mitigate_climate_change.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>v</sup> Ibid.

<sup>vi</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Hannah Reid, Saleemul Huq, Aino Inkinen, James MacGregor, Duncan Macqueen, James Mayers, Laurel Murray and Richard Tupper. "Using Wood Products to Mitigate Climate Change: A Review of Evidence and Key Issues For Sustainable Development." (January 2004).

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<sup>vii</sup> Stuart and Moura Costa (1998) as cited in Reid et.al., "Using Wood Products to Mitigate Climate Change: A Review of Evidence and Key Issues For Sustainable Development."

<sup>viii</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Hannah Reid, Saleemul Huq, Aino Inkinen, James MacGregor, Duncan Macqueen, James Mayers, Laurel Murray and Richard Tupper. "Using Wood Products to Mitigate Climate Change: A Review of Evidence and Key Issues For Sustainable Development." (January 2004).

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