

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT



HARDEN



Harden Furniture: Environmental Genetics

It has been said that our society has consumed more natural resources in the past 100 years than in all of man's previous existence combined. However, for 150 years and through five generations of family ownership, Harden Furniture has upheld a tradition of environmental stewardship. From harvesting trees from its company owned and managed 20,000 plus acre woodland in Upstate New York, to the maintenance of an on-site Forestry Division and adherence to environmentally sound principles and practices, Harden has been practicing a responsible environmental policy since before the Industrial Revolution and all of its impact on the environment.

And not only is the Harden family five generations old, but many Harden employees have five generations of historical roots in the company. Why such loyalty? From the very beginning, founding son Charles S. Harden Sr.'s concern for his employees and the village in which they lived was reflected in the construction of churches, a community house, and several homes for the employees – in a very distinct way, a sustainable community before it's time.

That groundbreaking pioneer spirit was evident in the Harden family long before a single piece of furniture was ever produced. The company's originator, Charles S. Harden, Sr., was born to a family who moved into the unbroken wilderness of Verona, N.Y. in the 1800s. Charles eventually headed west in search of adventure and gold. Finding none, Harden decided to move his family back to New York, settling in McConnellsville and purchasing a sawmill on Fish Creek.

His life experience to that point was one of living off the land exclusively. As a result, Charles Harden had a strong sense of respect for the land, which became part of the Harden family "DNA." 

Responsible Forest Management

Harden Furniture is unique, as no other furniture manufacturer owns its own woodlands and sawmill operations. By owning thousands of acres of forested lands in New York State, Harden is able to maintain an ample supply of high quality saw logs, predominately cherry and maple, without compromising their natural resources. In order to responsibly care for and nurture their forests, Harden's woodlands are intensively managed and harvested on a rotational 15-20 year cycle, using trees that are 90 to 100 years old, meaning its tree stock is growing at a rate up to four times faster than it is used. All trees to be harvested are marked by a company forester and the entire harvesting operation is supervised from start to finish.

The forest is a renewable resource and, with proper management, can continually supply high quality forest products. By having a vast resource base, Harden is better able to supply a portion of its raw material needs without depending exclusively on outside sources. This factor is predominant in Harden's ability to produce high-quality home, office and hospitality furnishings from generation to generation, while sustaining its owned and managed forests.

Forest certification is one of the most controversial and pivotal issues of the green building and sustainable design movement. Some furniture manufacturers are purchasing small quantities of certified wood and offering it to their customers, proudly proclaiming their green efforts. Tracing its roots back to the days when Charles Harden learned to live off the land, today's generation of Harden employees see things differently, embracing the Sustainable Forest Initiative® program.

Sustainable forestry consists of management practices that ensure the health and growth of our forests for future generations. As the population expands and the economy grows, responsible people are concerned about our forests. They want assurances that our forests will always be there.

The U.S. forest and paper industries share this concern. Companies that rely on healthy and productive forestland for their livelihood have a keen self interest in making certain that forests remain healthy and productive.



The “Sustainable Forestry Initiative” (SFI) program is a comprehensive program of forestry and conservation practices designed to ensure that future generations of Americans will have the same abundant forests that we enjoy today. It's among the largest sustainable forestry and certification programs in the world, encompassing nearly 135 million acres of forestland throughout North America.

The SFI® program was developed in 1995 by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), a national trade group that represents forest and paper companies. AF&PA assembled a task force of experienced professional foresters, conservationists and scientists who spent 18 months crafting the SFI program. Today SFI is independent of the AF&PA, governed by a board of directors representing stockholders from all aspects of the environmental movement.

This careful collaboration produced an ambitious set of forest principles and detailed guidelines that require companies to reforest harvested land promptly, provide for wildlife habitat, improve water quality and ecosystem diversity, and protect forestland of special ecological significance.

As a certified member of the SFI program, all Harden owned forests (10,000 acres) are compliant with their standards. Harden has been meeting many of those standards over their 100 year history. With each harvesting operation, Harden’s stands of timber are selectively cut, removing those trees that have reached maturity, or, for other silvicultural considerations (disease, crowding, etc.), need removal. The remaining stands of timber are improved by removing trees, and concentrating all available growing space on the younger and healthier trees.

Harden utilizes an overall management program that also recognizes other forest related benefits, such as water, wildlife and recreation. Regular monitoring of woodlands is essential for creating successful management programs. Before cutting, a timber “cruise” is performed which involves an inventory of the timber stands to determine species, volumes, growth rates, general health, and other information pertaining to those stands at the time of inspection.

As a founding member of the National American Tree Farm System®, Harden is setting the stage for the future by practicing good forestry and land stewardship. As a result, the company will be able to depend on long term supplies of quality forest products while maintaining healthy, long lasting forests for generations to come. Harden has mastered these techniques while upholding its reputation for craftsmanship, form and function - each unparalleled in the industry. ♻️



Role of Furniture in the Built Environment

What defines a “green” furniture product? How and where materials are produced, harvested, transported, stored and applied; emissions created by the manufacturing process; and, energy used in the manufacturing process, all without compromising or sacrificing quality, durability, aesthetic appeal and affordability?

Furniture affects everyone, every day. While appearance is important, good design affects our health, our state of mind, and our ability to produce at a higher level. It is also about using resources effectively and responsibly. But often times, little or no thought is given to the impact of furnishings on the built environment. Factors ranging from resource conservation to shipping materials, recycling to recycled content use, waterbased finishes and low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) emissions create a direct concern for the built environment, and many indirect concerns with far reaching effects on the environment present and future.

There are few other consumables available that have such a “whole-life-performance” impact as does solid wood furniture. Harvested directly from the soil, when it has outlived its primary usefulness it can be resold, refinished and reused, recycled or returned to the soil. ♻️

EnVision

EnVision, Harden's environmental initiative, extends beyond forest management to embrace the founder's earliest ideas of sustainability. Today this translates to the personal health and well being of all Harden employees, being a resource and cornerstone of the community, and the manufacture and delivery of superior furniture in the most environmentally responsible manner known. It's not about meeting regulations – it's about exceeding them.

Recycling:

Harden recycles 100 percent of all aluminum, steel, corrugated cardboard and wood used in the manufacturing and shipping process. Wood is chipped and used, as a "bio-fuel" to heat the manufacturing facility. All sawdust goes to local farms for animal bedding.

Sustainable Manufacturing:

Daylighting and operable windows are used throughout the Harden manufacturing facility.

All work area throughout the facility are heated by bio-fuel heating systems.

Water retention ponds collect storm water and act as a pre-cooling source for chilled water applications.

Federal Policy and LEED Opportunities:

Harden can assist its customers in meeting Federal policies and programs supporting green building interiors procurement. It can also help Federal and State agencies that are working towards LEED Building Rating System Certification, in the areas of:

1. *Packaging/Recycling*
2. *Furniture Upgrade*
3. *Recycled Content*
4. *NonToxic Finishes (TBD)*
5. *Close Proximity to Customers and Use of Regional Materials:* Located in Central New York, Harden is within 500 miles of most of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic's largest cities, including, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Harden Forests also are located within the same geographic distance.

Heirloom "Lifetime" Furniture:

Harden designs and builds beautiful, functional and environmentally responsible products that last more than a lifetime. Harden furniture is solid hardwood furniture that will in most cases NEVER enter the waste stream. Because of this unique feature, it can endure and be refurbished and reused over and over again. This is a key point, as many companies are realizing the cost saving benefits of reusing "older" "more substantial" furniture. For example, United Technologies Corporation (UTC), the 49th largest company in the U.S., saved 88 percent of its annual expenditures in new furniture over a two year period just by meeting the furniture requirements of its five divisions and corporate offices with surplus furniture. By purchasing "right the first time", companies such as UTC can reap the aesthetic and economic benefits of high quality office furniture for years to come.

Harden furniture is made to last well beyond one lifetime. If properly maintained, a Harden desk can endure long enough that 100 years into the future, a new piece of Harden furniture – made from trees planted when the first piece was made – can sit alongside that desk like a proud grandfather and grandson. There are few, if any, industries that can make this sort of claim to sustainability, and in the high quality furniture industry, Harden is without peer. 



Harden's Forestlands – Part of a managed program that benefits both nature and our needs.

LIVING WITH NATURE

Nature's Role in the Future of Harden Furniture

Since the company made its first chair, Harden product lines have evolved continually - a testament to Harden's commitment to producing fine furniture for all generations of consumers and their families.

Harden Furniture is one of only a few furniture manufacturers that own their own woodlands and sawmill operations. By owning and managing thousands of acres of forested lands in New York State, Harden is able to maintain an ample supply of high quality sawlogs, predominantly cherry and maple, without compromising our natural resources.

Harden nurtures their forests responsibly, managing and harvesting from them on a 15-20 year rotational cycle. All trees to be harvested are marked by a company forester and the harvesting operation is supervised closely from start to finish. In each harvest, the stands of timber are cut selectively, removing only those trees that have reached maturity or need removal for other silvicultural considerations such as disease or crowding. The remaining stands of timber are improved by removing trees, and concentrating all available growing space on the younger and healthier trees. Harden's woodland management program also recognizes and preserves other forest-related benefits, such as clean air, water, wildlife and recreation.



Marking Trees for Harvesting – Certified Staff Forester marks trees individually.

Regular monitoring of woodlands is essential for successful management programs. Before cutting, a timber "cruise" is performed, taking an inventory of the timber stands to determine species, volumes, growth rates, general health, and other pertinent stand information.

The stand information gathered from the "cruise" is used to prescribe management procedures for each particular tract. The stand prescription will then yield the greatest return from that site by maximizing the growth of the most desirable trees between harvesting cycles.



Cutting of Trees – Stands are selectively cut, leaving a healthy, fast-growing residual stand.

The forest is a renewable resource and, with proper management, can supply high-quality forest products continually. With its vast resource base, Harden is able to supply a large part of its own raw material needs and minimize dependence on outside sources - a key advantage in the company's ability to produce high-quality home furnishings... from generation to generation.

In the continuing effort to improve the growth of their stands, the Forestry Division has been involved in research and development to shorten cutting cycles and the growth period improving timber quality. The main objective is to be able to grow high-quality hardwoods in 50-60 years - a process that may otherwise take mother nature 80-100 years to complete!

As an active member of the American Tree Farm System, Harden is setting the stage for the future by practicing good forestry and land stewardship today. As a result, the company will be able to depend on long-term supplies of quality forest products while maintaining healthy, long-lasting forests for generations to come.



Tree Growth – The average tree harvested from Harden's managed stands is approximately 50 to 60 years old.

FUNCTIONS OF THE FORESTRY TEAM



Scaled Logs — As logs arrive at the Harden factory, they are rated by size, quality, curvature, knots and other quality-indicators.



Staff foresters evaluating growth and potential harvest.

Harden's Forestry Team plays an important part in the maintenance of healthy growing environments for black cherry and other usable species. In order to achieve this goal...

1. The Forestry Division manages over 10,000 acres of company-owned forests and between 6,000 to 8,000 acres of privately owned woodlands leased from other landowners. All lands are managed for multiple uses: clean air, water, wildlife, recreation, and wood products.
2. The Forestry Division supervises cuttings, to improve the "stands".
3. Our foresters continually look for new purchase and management options of hardwood timberlands. They peruse tax rolls and personally investigate potential sites.
4. They "scale" logs when they arrive - rating them by size, wood quality, curvature, knots, red rot and gum pockets. Approximately 175,000 logs are scaled every year — red maple (for drawers, upholstery frames, etc), black cherry (for case goods), and a tiny bit of rome yellow birch (for upholstery frames). This translates to approximately 8,100,000 board feet of lumber per year — 5.6 million of black cherry and 2.5 million of maple.
5. The Forestry Division also leases properties to private recreational clubs as part of their multi-use management policy and monitor and post boundary lines to prevent timber loss through theft.
6. The foresters work with other local loggers to purchase cherry and maple from their harvesting.
7. The division monitors wood growth in all stands to detect viral, bacterial, insect or wind damage and treat them where possible. They also remove diseased and dead trees to provide better growing conditions for younger trees and conduct ongoing research into more effective hardwood growing methods.

FOREST FACTS

DID YOU KNOW?

New York State has 18.5 million acres of forests, which contribute 13.5 billion dollars annually to our economy.

DID YOU KNOW?

80 cubic feet of lumber yields 12 conference room tables, seating 96 people.
– “America Grows on Trees,”
by American Forest Council, 1988.

DID YOU KNOW?

For every ton of wood a forest grows, it removes 1.47 tons of carbon dioxide and replaces it with 1.07 tons of oxygen. Based on the estimate that a person needs one pound of oxygen a day for respiration, each forested acre would provide enough oxygen for 10 people a year.
– “America Grows on Trees,”
by American Forest Council, 1988.

DID YOU KNOW?

New York State ranks first nationally in number of employees in the furniture and fixture industry.

DID YOU KNOW?

Lumber and woodusing industries account for 7.3% of all New York State manufacturing, 5.8% of its employment.

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2,184 establishments in lumber and wood-using industries in New York State employed 70,733, generating an annual payroll of \$1.7 billion.

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 61% of New York State’s 30 million acres are forested – or 18.5 million acres. At the turn of the century, only 48% were forested due to agricultural clearing.



Tomorrows Heirlooms—
Lumber produced from Harden sawmill.



The Air We Breathe —
One acre provides oxygen for 10-people
a year.



Replenishing Material —
New York State forests produce 3.5 times
more wood than-being harvested.



Attention to Detail — Each unit is
inspected for an exact fit.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the United States, industrial and individual private forest landowners plant about six million trees daily – more than enough to compensate for the amount harvested annually.
– “Tree Farmer” article
by Luke Popvich, 1989.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each person uses a 100-foot tree (approximately 0.75 cord) each year in the form of woodproduct uses (average, 613 pounds of paper products, 200 sq. ft. of one-inch thick lumber, 87 sq. ft. of plywood, and 59 sq. ft. of insulating board, particleboard and hardboard).

DID YOU KNOW?

On average, it takes 60 years to grow a 100foot tree. In its lifetime, that tree will grow and shed 3,600 pounds of leaves, will have a 4,100 pound column and 18" diameter. It will produce about 5,000 seeds, grow 1,300 pounds of roots, retain 100 pounds of nutrients, return 200 pounds of nutrients, take in 8,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, and exhale 6,000 pounds of oxygen.

DID YOU KNOW?

A recent inventory indicates that New York State forests are producing 3.5 times more wood than is being removed through the combination of timber harvesting and naturally occurring losses.
– Empire State Forest Products Association, Industry Briefing, 1995, Data by The Irland Group.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is approximately one acre of forested land per person in New York State (18 million people / 18 million forest acres).

HARDEN

Furniture for a Lifetime.

Harden Furniture, Inc.
8550 Mill Pond Way, McConnellsville, NY 13401-1844
(315) 245-1000 • Fax (315) 245-2884
harden@harden.com • www.harden.com