



**Imported timber:
what are you buying into?**

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Some imported timber is logged illegally. This trade greatly affects communities, economies and the environment. The habitats of endangered species are especially vulnerable.

On the other hand, legally logged timber is a vital source of income for communities in developing countries.

What sorts of timber products could be illegally logged?

A proportion of all timber imported into this country is estimated to have been sourced, felled, sold and transported illegally. Tropical timber and timber products are the most likely to fall into this category.

Tropical hardwoods, such as kwila, are popular for use as decking timber and outdoor furniture. These are the products you should ask about.

How do I tell which products are legal?

Certification is the only way to be sure which timber products are legal. There are several certification and legality verification schemes that provide peace of mind when buying imported tropical timber, including:



How do I know if the timber product I'm buying is legal?

Simply look for the labels or ask. Outdoor furniture products often provide labelling to indicate their origin and certification.

Alternatively, ask your supplier. If they can't provide information on the source of the timber they sell, you can't be sure of buying with a clear conscience.

Members of the New Zealand Imported Tropical Timber Group (ITTG) have all signed up to a charter with the objective that all timber sold by members is legal and sustainably sourced.

Members of the ITTG include:

