

FAQ: Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) for Douglas-Fir Solid Sawn Timbers

What is an Environmental Product Declaration?

An Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) is a standardized, third-party verified report that describes a product's environmental impacts based on a life cycle assessment. The EPD offers independently verified environmental data to help project teams evaluate and specify materials, particularly for projects that require transparent environmental information.

What does this EPD cover?

This cradle to gate, industry average Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) covers Pacific Northwest Douglas-fir solid sawn timbers, including nominal 4 by 6 inch and larger products used in structural and architectural applications. "Cradle to gate" means the assessment covers the environmental impacts from growing and harvesting the trees through processing the logs into finished timbers at the manufacturing facility. It includes both kiln dried and green timbers, which are produced for a wide range of uses including heavy timber construction, exposed beams and columns, timber framing, and industrial applications.

The assessment follows internationally recognized standards and established rules for evaluating the environmental impacts of structural wood products. Specifically, this EPD was created using the following International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Product Category Rules (PCR):

- ISO 21930
- ULE 10010-9 V1.1

Who developed the EPD?

The Consortium for Research on Renewable Industrial Materials (CORRIM) developed the life cycle assessment and EPD for Sustainable Northwest, the declaration owner. The EPD was certified through ASTM International's Environmental Product Declaration Program.

Where can I find the EPD?

The Environmental Product Declaration is available through CORRIM's Library of LCAs on Wood Products under "Environmental Product Declarations" as "[Douglas-fir Solid Sawn Timbers.](#)" It is also listed through ASTM International's Environmental Product Declaration Program, as "[EPD for Sustainable Northwest Douglas-Fir Solid Sawn Timbers](#)"

Where can I buy Pacific Northwest Douglas-fir solid sawn timbers?

Pacific Northwest Douglas-fir solid sawn timbers are available from a variety of regional manufacturers, distributors and suppliers, including Canyon Lumber, The Buse Mill Company, Fritch Mill, Manke Lumber Company, Sundher Timber Products and Elk Creek Forest Products.

For assistance identifying suppliers or sourcing products for a project, contact Sustainable Northwest's Wood Advisor program, which connects project teams with suppliers across the wood supply chain.

Where does the wood come from?



Douglas-fir solid sawn timbers come from public, private and tribal forestlands across the Pacific Northwest. Because these products require large-diameter logs, the forests supplying them are typically managed on extended rotations or with silvicultural practices designed to produce larger-diameter trees.

What are Douglas-fir solid sawn timbers used for?

Common applications for Pacific Northwest Douglas-fir solid sawn timbers include posts, beams, and columns found in applications ranging from timber frame homes to large commercial and institutional projects.

Why are solid sawn timbers different from dimensional lumber?

Solid sawn timbers are large structural wood products, typically measuring 4 by 6 inches and larger. They require larger-diameter Douglas-fir logs than most dimension lumber products. Their size, strength, and appearance make them well suited for heavy timber construction, exposed beams and columns, and other applications where large structural wood is desired.

Why do solid sawn timbers require extended rotation forests?

Solid sawn timbers are produced from large diameter Douglas-fir logs that are significantly larger than those typically used for dimension lumber. Forests supplying these products are often managed on extended harvest rotations or with silvicultural practices designed to produce large diameter trees.

Why did Port Blakely provide the forestry data?

Port Blakely provided the representative forestry data used in the life cycle assessment because its forest management practices reflect the type of management needed to grow the large-diameter Douglas-fir used for solid sawn timbers. The EPD notes that forests producing these products are often managed on rotations of 50 to 80 years or with silvicultural practices designed to produce larger diameter trees.

Why did Port Blakely support development of this EPD?

Port Blakely supported the development of the industry-average EPD because the building industry increasingly relies on standardized, third-party-verified environmental information when evaluating building materials. The EPD helps ensure Pacific Northwest Douglas-fir solid sawn timbers can be considered for projects that require or request Environmental Product Declarations, helping provide the environmental information needed for project evaluation and material specification.

Where can I learn more?

The Environmental Product Declaration is available through CORRIM's Library of LCAs on Wood Products under Environmental Product Declarations as [Douglas-fir Solid Sawn Timbers](#).

For assistance with sourcing Douglas-fir solid-sawn timbers or connecting with suppliers, contact [Sustainable Northwest's Wood Advisor program](#). The program works with forest landowners, sawmills, manufacturers, distributors and project teams to help identify wood products that meet project requirements.