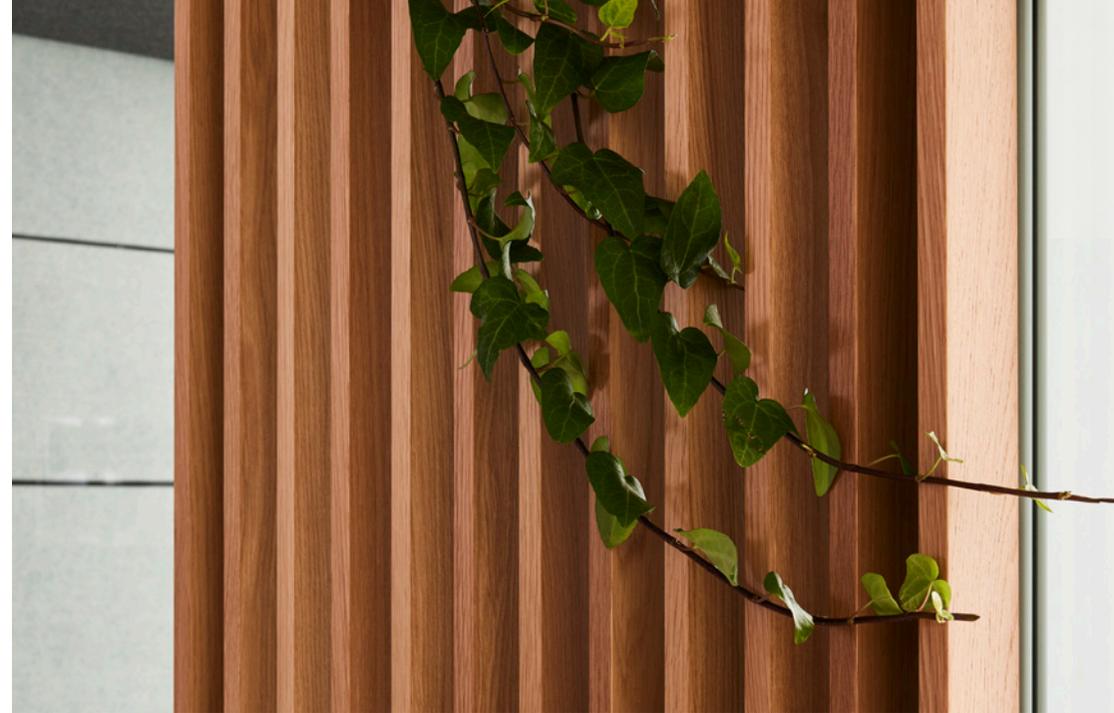


Wood

Our approach to sustainable materials

At Ahrend, we treat wood as a valuable raw material. We like to use wood in our products because of its natural quality. Wood is a material of the future, but the ecosystem of our forests is under enormous pressure today. That is why at Ahrend we use wood carefully and responsibly.



Why we opt for wood

Within our circular philosophy, we see wood as one of the most important materials of the future. Trees absorb CO₂ and release oxygen back into the atmosphere during their life cycle. Not only do they store CO₂, they also protect our water systems, nourish our soils, provide shelter and balance climate and humidity. Wood is a strong material with a long lifespan, making it an ideal material for our furniture. After a piece of wooden furniture has completed its economic life cycle, its parts can often be reused. When a part is no longer reusable, it can be recycled and is in some cases biodegradable¹.

How we use wood

We believe in wood as a material of the future - but it can become depleted. Many forests are disappearing due to the unsustainable exploitation of raw materials. Irresponsible wood harvesting is one of the main causes of deforestation. This is why we strive to source wood only from sustainably managed and certified forests, and use as little virgin wood as possible. We also maximise the utility of the wood by reusing our products over multiple life cycles.

Minimal use

We base our designs on minimal new wood use. So we design lightweight structures and opt to choose for recycled wood materials over virgin wood. Around 90% of our total wood production is chipboard (MFC). Our standard product lines are made of chipboard (MFC) from Pfleiderer. Our Pfleiderer Chipboard (MFC) tabletops consist of 50% post-consumer reclaimed wood², 35% post-industrial wood³, and 15% industrial and reclaimed wood from forests managed sustainably according to PEFC and FSC requirements⁴.

¹ Assuming no additives.

² Post-consumer recycled material is material that has already been used by consumers and will serve as a source of new material after use.

³ Post-industrial "leftover" material from previous production processes. This post-industrial waste is collected and processed into new fibres to be reintroduced into the production process.

⁴ PEFC: Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, FSC: Forest Stewardship Council.



The PEFC certificate (CU-PEFC-COC-808416) guarantees that all our wood-based materials from our own production facilities come from sustainably managed forests.

This is how we select our wood

We are committed to sourcing raw wood material from sustainable sources worldwide. This is why our supply chain is PEFC-certified. An independent accredited certifier annually tests our compliance with certification standards. This certification guarantees the sustainable origin of our wood products. We require our suppliers to provide guarantees that their timber has not contributed to deforestation or forest degradation. We aim for all the wood we source to be compliant with the European Union's Deforestation Free Regulation (EUDR) by 2025.

This is how we ensure value retention

We ensure value preservation for wood in several ways:

- ▶ Our chipboard (MFC) and HPL meets the highest standards for impact and scratch resistance (EN14322 and EN14323). This means our tabletops last longer than the average economic lifespan of 10 years.
- ▶ Our Wood Hub in Czechia has set up processes to ensure minimal cutting waste.
- ▶ Our preferred suppliers produce chipboard in custom dimensions. This brings our cutting waste down to 30%.
- ▶ Our cutting waste goes back to the timber industry, to local chipboard producers.

Compliance

Most of our wood comes from Europe; for the remaining suppliers outside Europe, Ahrend expects suppliers to comply with PEFC and/or FSC forestry certification programmes. When it comes to chemical regulations, Ahrend requires all suppliers to comply with EU REACH regulations. Forestry certification programmes such as PEFC and FSC look not only at environmental standards, but also at social requirements such as minimum wages for forest workers, equal employment opportunities and non-discrimination (SDG 8); they also promote gender equality (SDG 5), safeguarding the interests of indigenous peoples and fair sharing of the benefits derived from the use of traditional and local knowledge. (SDG 2 and 4).⁵

⁵ Chain of Custody requirements PEFC