

OUR COMMITMENT TO GREEN CABINETRY

Building “Green Cabinets” can mean different things to different people. Often people are looking for formaldehyde-free cabinets or for those with less ‘off-gassing.’ At Gillingham Cabinets, we see several dimensions to the greenness of cabinets.

FORMALDEHYDE-FREE CABINETS

No wood product – not even solid wood – is formaldehyde-free, so we use what are called CARB certified wood panels. CARB is a strict standard introduced in 2009 by the California Air Resource Board that addresses all types of formaldehyde emission in the wood we use. It is more comprehensive and effective than previous “No Added Urea Formaldehyde” types of board construction.

CARB certified sheets emit less formaldehyde compared to more conventionally made panels, and results in significantly improved indoor air quality. At Gillingham Cabinets, all of our cabinets are made using CARB certified wood.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CARBON FOOTPRINT

At the end of 2009, we calculated our Carbon Footprint – the first kitchen cabinet company on Vancouver Island to do so. A carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gas emitted during the course of our operations – from sources like heating and electricity usage, fuel used in the delivery trucks, and even estimating the fuel used by our employees to get to work.

Once we had a clear picture of where our emissions were coming from, we saw ways we could reduce them. We are thrilled to have been able to cut our carbon footprint by more than half starting in January 2010.

Also, to keep input materials to a minimum, our cabinets are made from board that contains 100% recycled fibres, and we use computer software to optimize where the pieces are cut from each sheet of wood.

GREEN CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

In addition to cabinets made with low-emissions and 100% recycled wood, we can source materials that have been harvested in compliance with the Forest Stewardship Council’s certification for environmental management, and materials that are LEED certified.

Another option that avoids the use of hardwood trees is called “reconstituted veneer.” Made from harvested poplar, it offers cabinets that appear to be hardwoods such as maple or cherry, but without using trees from natural forests. Exotic looks like teak, bamboo, and wenge, are possible and environmentally sensitive eco-systems are not compromised.

For finishing materials, we can apply water-based stains and lacquers for low emissions of VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) that further improve air quality and reduce the environmental impact of the cabinets we make.

LEED CERTIFICATION

Standards for environmentally responsible building in North America are most commonly defined by LEED – Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design. LEED is a comprehensive set of standards that covers all aspects of the development and construction process, including specifications for construction materials, including cabinetry.

For more information try the following:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leadership_in_Energy_and_Environmental_Design

