

Where to find Products for building green

2011 



Green building looks at the whole house and how systems interrelate, including impacts on the health and comfort of occupants.

Selecting products with multiple benefits and attributes is the best approach. Some green building products have measurable benefits for homeowners, such as using less electricity or not off-gassing formaldehyde. Others have attributes that likely reduce their impact on the environment, such as recycled content or local manufacture.

Product and company directories

- **Building Materials Reuse Association** has a searchable directory of Minnesota companies that sell and/or accept used or surplus building materials. Browse the directory: www.bmra.org
- **Certified forest products** come from sustainably managed forests and can be tracked all the way to the supplier (chain of custody). *SmartGuides* identify FSC-certified products and companies: www.rainforest-alliance.org/marketplace
- **Energy Star** lists products, manufacturers, and store locations for energy-efficient appliances, heating and cooling products, home electronics, lighting, windows and doors, and more. www.energystar.gov
- **Green Building Advisor** includes over 1,600 product listings in a subscription-based, searchable database. Annual printed edition is available. www.greenbuildingadvisor.com

- **Minnesota Recycled Products Directory** contains sections on construction and landscaping building products made from recycled materials by Minnesota manufacturers. www.pca.state.mn.us/rpdir
- **Renewable energy** information from the Minnesota Energy Information Center includes *Hiring a Renewable Energy Dealer* with a listing of Minnesota suppliers and contact information. www.energy.mn.gov
- **WaterSense**, a program of U.S. EPA, provides listings of water-saving, high-performing products and services. www.epa.gov/watersense

Retail showrooms and sales outlets in Minnesota

Energy-efficient and renewable energy products



- **Conservation Technologies, Inc.** offers energy-efficient building supplies, including ventilation, dehumidification, caulk and foam sealants, and renewable-energy products. 4804 Oneota Street, Duluth, MN 55807, 218-722-9003, www.conservtech.com
- **Shelter Supply, Dakota Supply Group** sells a variety of ultra energy-efficient building products, including water heaters, bathroom fans, whole-house ventilators, and more. 151 East Cliff Road, Suite 30, Burnsville, MN 55337, 952-516-3400, 877-207-7043, www.sheltersupply.com

Interior finishes and fixtures

- **eco (environmentally conscious options)** is a resource for non-toxic, environmentally friendly interior finishes such as flooring, countertops, hardware, wall coverings, and furnishings. 517 Garfield Avenue (Builder's Commonwealth), Duluth, MN 55802, 218-626-1118, www.ecolivingspace.com
- **Casa Verde Design** in South Minneapolis is a custom kitchen and bath design showroom that focuses on earth sustaining principles. 911 West 50th Street, Minneapolis MN 55419, 612-353-4401, www.casaverdedesign.com
- **Natural Built Home** specializes in new sustainable interior products, including flooring, carpet, paints, tile, countertops, ultra water-efficient fixtures, cleaning products, and more. 4020 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55406, 612-605-7999 | 866-670-2742, www.naturalbulthome.com



- **Moss Envy** (formerly Twin Cities Green) stocks innovative and quality green products from artists and manufacturers with emphasis on local and fair-trade. Product selection includes furniture and mattresses, flooring and countertops, lighting, rugs, rain barrels, low-flow faucets. 3056 Excelsior Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55416, 612-374-4581, www.mossenvy.com

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Big box retailers Home Depot, Lowe's, and Menards carry Energy Star products. Look for the logo on light fixtures, programmable thermostats, ceiling fans, insulation, windows, doors, and skylights. Home Depot and Lowe's also carry some FSC-certified products. See Home Depot's Eco Options recommendations at www.homedepot.com/ecoptions

Surplus and salvaged reusable building products

Check the local yellow pages under **Salvage-Merchandise** for vendors of reusable building products.

- ▶ **Better Homes & Garbage** offers sales and salvage of quality reusable building materials, including cabinets, hardware, doors, millwork, furniture, and plumbing fixtures. By appointment only.
2829 Emerson Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612-644-9412
www.BHandGarbage.com
- ▶ **Habitat for Humanity ReStores** carry used and surplus building materials.
510 County Rd. D West,
New Brighton, MN 55112
612-588-3820
Also stores in Brainerd, Grand Rapids, Mankato, Moorhead, Willmar, and Winona
www.habitat.org/env/restores.aspx

Sustainably harvested forest products (FSC chain of custody)

- ▶ **Aitkin Hardwoods** has FSC chain of custody for manufacturing solid hardwood flooring, tongue & groove paneling, and standard and custom molding. On-site millwork facility and retail sales. Contact Marcy Coit for more information.
45216 Highway 210 West,
Aitkin, MN 56431
888-927-6515
www.aitkinhardwoods.com
- ▶ **Scherer Brothers Lumber** has FSC chain of custody for dimensional lumber, sheet goods, and interior millwork. On-site millwork facility can manufacture custom moldings. For locations, call 612-379-9633 or visit www.schererbros.com
- ▶ **Wood from the Hood** reclaims and processes urban timber from local tree services into hardwood lumber and flooring for distribution locally. Custom milling of flooring, trim, cabinetry and furniture, including use of timber from customer's own property. By appointment only.
2640 Minnehaha Ave. S
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612-581-0252
www.woodfromthehood.com

Additional Minnesota FSC retailers can be found at www.fscus.org/productsearch/retailers



Verification and testing

- ▶ **Home performance testing** includes blower door testing, inspection of mechanical systems, insulation inspection, and carbon monoxide testing. The Minnesota Building Performance Association lists home performance consultants at www.mbpas.us/existing-homes.htm
- ▶ **Radon testing** information and how to obtain kits can be found at the Minnesota Department of Health website or by calling 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050.
www.health.state.mn.us/radon

Construction and demolition waste: Recycling and reuse

- ▶ **Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board website** provides information about reducing, reusing, recycling, and disposing of hazardous waste generated from home improvement and construction projects in the Twin Cities metro area.
www.rethinkrecycling.com/residents
- ▶ **Minnesota Materials Exchange** is a free on-line service linking organizations that have unneeded, reusable construction materials, furniture, paints/stains, and other goods with those who can use them.
www.mnexchange.org
- ▶ **Twin Cities Free Market** is a listing service for residents who want to give or get free reusable home renovation items.
www.twincitiesfreemarket.org

Minnesota Pollution
Control Agency

