

Wood products are everywhere!

IF WE WERE to ask you to name five wood products, how would you answer? 2x4s? Flooring? Framing?

That's cute... and a nice little start. Truth is, wood and wood products (pulp, paper, etc.) are everywhere in our daily lives, all over the house, in ways you never dreamed! Take a deep breath, and let's take a quick tour!

Let's start in the bathroom (we won't be here long, promise): toothpaste, deodorant, activated charcoal, closet rods, tongue depressors, toilet plungers, bath towels, eyeglass frames, toilet seats, hangers, baskets, jewelry boxes, disinfecting wipes, shoe polish, and facial and bath tissue. Wait! Don't forget about nail polish, makeup, perfumes, hair spray, and brush handles!

Taking a long walk around the house, you might also run into garage doors, hot tubs, stairs, stair rails, paneling, shingles, doors, window frames, coat racks, dining room furniture, upholstered furniture frames, rocking chairs, end tables, coffee tables, beds, bookcases, nightstands, bureaus, shutters, lamp shades, mouldings, baseboards, furniture polish, and—look up—ceiling tiles!

Stepping into the kitchen, there's kitchen utensils, clocks, salad bowls and serving ware, rolling pins, toothpicks, match sticks, chopsticks, butcher blocks, knife handles, wine racks, spices (allspice, bay leaves, cinnamon cloves, nutmeg, orange blossoms, to name a few), cutting boards, recipe cards, sugar/flour bags, bottle/jar/can labels, cereal boxes, coffee filters, milk cartons, egg cartons, paper towels, grocery bags, paper cups, food additives, and those Friday night pizza boxes. Pop quiz: did you know pulp can be used in diet drinks and as a food texture enhancer? Good thing it's an all-natural, green product!

Let's not forget the furry family members! Dog houses, pet bedding, and gerbil chew sticks are all made with wood products.



QUICK! Name 100 items made from wood/wood byproducts, not including building materials!

What about the children and all their toys and collections of this and that? Crayons, sandboxes, backyard playsets, pencils, seesaws, model airplanes, popsicle sticks, rocking horses, puzzles, doll houses, yo-yos, dice, concert posters, poster board, kites, game boards, stickers, coloring books, paper dolls, baseball cards, tracing paper, playing cards, construction paper, and origami paper.

Got a music lover in the house? Lots of wood representation there! Drumsticks, tambourines, wood blocks, speaker/amplifier cabinets, metronomes, xylophones, harmonicas, stage flooring, some piano keys, guitars, organs and organ pedals, oboes, bagpipes, banjos, clarinets, flutes/fifes, mandolins, violins, cellos, bassoons, and, of course, drums.

Sports fans know where the wood is at! How about right there in hockey sticks, fishing boats, ping pong paddles, golf tees, sleds, football helmets, snowshoes, baseball bats, canoe paddles, bowling alley lanes, bowling pins, hurdles, parts of snowboards, skis, skateboards, and gunstocks of those air rifles.

It's a beautiful day outside, so let's check out the tool and gardening shed and the rest of the yard to see how wood is represented: tar, pitch, turpentine, tool handles, garden stakes, fencing, birdhouses, ladders, gazebos, trellises, cable reels, picnic tables, porch swings, landscape timbers, planters, concrete forms, birdhouses, wood-working clamps, work benches, trellises, and fuel for meat smokers (yum!).

Everyone has a home office these days, and wood is all over the place! Tax forms, marriage licenses, birth/death certificates, stationery, notebook paper, name tags, computer paper, books, envelopes, checks, mail, instruction manuals, calendars, diplomas, report cards, masking tape, wrapping paper, postage stamps, file folders, sticky notes, magazines, postcards, maps, phone books (remember those?), photos, newspapers, tickets, business cards, and even as part of that nice new LCD screen you bought for those never-ending video calls.

And, of course, on Sunday morning, wood makes its presence known in pews, altars and hymn books.

We cannot forget about outside the house! Ferryboats, truck and trailer flooring, propeller shafts, bearing for ships... all made with wood products. Rowboats, ship masts, and yardarms? Wood products. Railroad crossing gates, covered bridges, park benches, and billboards? You guessed it! Wood!

Is there a more versatile building products that adds so much to our lives? No, there is not. Wood is the original green building product. It is natural and renewable, which is why we have learned how to integrate it into so many things! Look around you and see where wood makes an appearance. You'll never run out of places to look!

PS: We can't leave without sharing three more wood uses: lobster pots and floats, merry-go-round horses, and artificial snow. Now we are done!

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