

## Material Sourcing Information for Timber in Haiti

### Types of timber products and availability

Primarily there are four types of wood products that may be useful in t-shelter construction

- **Hardwood:** Beams or planks of generally strong and dense woods (Oak, Maple, Teak, Mahogany)
- **Softwood:** Beams or planks of generally soft and light woods (Pine, Fir, Spruce, Cedar)
- **Plywood:** Board manufactured from glued layers of thin soft wood sheets . Marine ply wood is a special grade manufactured to resist moisture.
- **Fiber/Particle boards:** Boards manufactured from wood fiber or particles compacted under pressure.

Type of Sand	Use in T-shelter construction					Source of material and Remarks
	Beams and Frames	Roof structure	Flooring	Doors and Windows	Wall panels	
Hard Wood	-	-	-	X	-	Source: Mainly imported Not economical to be used in T-shelter construction
Soft Wood	XX	XX	-	XX	x	Source: Imported Sound material for beams, panels and door/windows. Not economical to be used in floors or large wall panels.
Plywood boards	-	-	XX	XX	XX	Source: Imported Sound material for floor boards, Wall Panels and doors
Fiber boards	-	-	-	X	X	Source: Imported Good for Wall Panels. But some types get swelled and weakened when exposed to moisture, where painting an sealing might be needed

X – Commonly used    XX – Moderately used

Above products are commonly available in Haiti in through major suppliers and small scale retail dealers. The products are available in a variety of sizes and forms according to the need

**Softwood dimensional timber sizes (North American)**

Nominal (in)	Actual (in)	Nominal (in)	Actual (in)	Nominal (in)	Actual (in)
1 x 2	3/4 in x 1 1/2 in (19 mm x 38 mm)	2 x 2	1 1/2 in x 1 1/2 in (38 mm x 38 mm)	4 x 4	3 1/2 in x 3 1/2 in (89 mm x 89 mm)
1 x 3	3/4 in x 2 1/2 in (19 mm x 64 mm)	2 x 3	1 1/2 in x 2 1/2 in (38 mm x 64 mm)	4 x 6	3 1/2 in x 5 1/2 in (89 mm x 140 mm)
1 x 4	3/4 in x 3 1/2 in (19 mm x 89 mm)	2 x 4	1 1/2 in x 3 1/2 in (38 mm x 89 mm)	6 x 6	5 1/2 in x 5 1/2 in (140 mm x 140 mm)
1 x 6	3/4 in x 5 1/2 in (19 mm x 140 mm)	2 x 6	1 1/2 in x 5 1/2 in (38 mm x 140 mm)	8 x 8	7 1/4 in x 7 1/4 in (184 mm x 184 mm)
1 x 8	3/4 in x 7 1/4 in (19 mm x 184 mm)	2 x 8	1 1/2 in x 7 1/4 in (38 mm x 184 mm)		
1 x 10	3/4 in x 9 1/4 in (19 mm x 235 mm)	2 x 10	1 1/2 in x 9 1/4 in (38 mm x 235 mm)		
1 x 12	3/4 in x 11 1/4 in (19 mm x 286 mm)	2 x 12	1 1/2 in x 11 1/4 in (38 mm x 286 mm)		

**Plywood Board Sizes (Standard)**

Size: 2.1x2.4m or 8x4 ft

Thickenss:

Imperial	Metric	Imperial	Metric
1/4 in.	6.5 mm	1/2 in.	12.5 mm
5/16 in.	8 mm	19/32 in.	15 mm
11/32 in.	8.5 mm	5/8 in.	16 mm
3/8 in.	9.5 mm	23/32 in.	18 mm
7/16 in.	11 mm	3/4 in.	19 mm
15/32 in.	12 mm	1-1/8 in.	28.5 mm

### Price range

Price may range largely according to the type, size, origin and supplier.

### Sustainable Sourcing

There is no organized timber industry in Haiti apart from occasional felling of some hardwood trees such as Mahogany. All softwood available in the market are imported mainly from North America. Therefore purchasing of timber from a large scale supplier is unlikely induce adverse impacts on the environment in Haiti. However this is not sufficient to ensure a sustainable sourcing of timber, please refer the Shelter Cluster / WWF publication on sustainable timber sourcing at [www.ShelterHaiti2010.org/Technical Information/Environmental References/Timber Position Paper.pdf](http://www.ShelterHaiti2010.org/Technical%20Information/Environmental%20References/Timber%20Position%20Paper.pdf))