

## Sustainable furniture – Making a lasting impression in the home

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Choosing furniture made with sustainable materials makes good sense because it helps to:

- Reduce deforestation
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Support ethical and fair-trade practices
- Creates a healthier, toxin free indoor environment

Materials used in furniture are considered sustainable when:

- They are easily replenished and do not deplete natural resources
- Have a low environmental impact, thereby reducing carbon emissions
- Are durable and long-lasting
- Are recyclable or biodegradable
- Are ethically sourced and produced under fair labour conditions



### Examples of sustainable materials sourced from trees:

Material:	Why it is sustainable:	Commonly used in:
Bamboo	Fast growing, regenerates naturally Does not require fertilisers or pesticides to grow Strong and lightweight Absorbs carbon while growing	Chairs Tables Shelves Bed frames
Reclaimed wood	Minimised deforestation by re-purposing old wood Often has unique textures and character	Dining tables Cabinets Wall panels
Cork	Harvested from cork oak trees without cutting them down Waterproof, fire-resistant and biodegradable Absorbs carbon whilst growing	Chairs Tables Decorative panels Furniture
FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified wood	Sourced from forests managed by the FSC Supports sustainable logging practices Prevents illegal deforestation	Cabinets Dressers Desks Shelves

**Examples of recycled materials used in furniture:**

Material:	Why it is sustainable:	Commonly used in:
Recycled metal	Requires 75% less energy to produce than virgin metal Highly durable, and can be recycled at end of life Long lasting, fire and pest resistant	Table frames Chairs Bed frames
Recycled plastic	Repurposed plastic waste into furniture Reduces pollution in oceans and landfill Can be recycled at end of life	Outdoor furniture Chairs Tables



**Other materials:**

Material:	Why it is sustainable:	Commonly used in:
Hemp fabric	Does not require pesticides to grow Needs less water than cotton Fully biodegradable and can be composted at end of life Absorbs carbon while growing	Sofas Cushions Curtains

[\(Sustainable Furniture: Choosing Materials That Are Better for the Planet - Sustainability Award\)](#)

**Some Australian companies who manufacture sustainable furniture:**

**Koskela** is an Australian furniture manufacturer founded in 2000 with a strong focus on ethical practices and environmental sustainability. They became the first Australian company to be granted B Corp certification, a designation awarded to companies that meet the highest verification standards for social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability. Koskela aims to commit to total circularity by 2027 and zero emissions by 2035, and their “Rehome” program allows people to trade-in, repair or buy second hand Koskela furniture. ([Our Impact – Koskela](#) , [Koskela ReHome FAQs](#))

**Jardan**, a family-owned Melbourne company have been maintaining carbon neutral operations for over a decade and achieved B Corp certification in 2023. Their sustainability initiatives also include “product stewardship” to ensure the recycling of products at the end of their lifecycle. Other key achievements include:

- 100% of all feather and down used in their manufacturing in FY24 was sourced from certified sustainable suppliers
- More than 80% of electricity used across their manufacturing sites is from renewable sources
- Over three financial years, they have increased their use of sustainable leather from 18% to 64%

[\(Sustainable Furniture Australia | Ethical Design | Jardan | Jardan AU\)](#)

**The Natural Bedding Company** manufacture sustainable bedroom furniture using PEFC-certified timber (Programme for the endorsement of Forest Certification, a certification which confirms the wood used in the product can be tracked back to a forest which is managed sustainably and ethically). They also use all-natural materials in their mattresses, avoiding synthetic foams which may release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) over time. ([Sustainable Furniture: Create a Low-Tox Home with TNBC](#))

**Koala Furniture** achieved B Corp certification in 2018, however because its products are manufactured overseas (mainly in Asia) their items carry a larger transportation carbon footprint compared with locally manufactured furniture like Koskela and Jardan ([Where are Koala mattresses made? Some of our manufacturing is done off – Koala®](#)). Nevertheless, their wood-based products (e.g. bed bases) use 100%

FSC-certified timber, and they have a long-term partnership with WWF-Australia donating over \$4.9 million so far to support koala and sea turtle habitat preservation. ([Koala Sofas, Mattresses & Furniture | Koala®](#))

