

# Sustainable Hardwood Alternative Gives Building Designers Greater Choice

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Aware of the sensitivities of using hardwoods, building components fabricator Octaveward have introduced Envirowood. Made from up to 70 percent recycled styrene and totally maintenance free, the material gives low lifetime cost of ownership and the assurance that after many years service it remains 100 percent recyclable. Envirowood has the surface finish and feel of real wood but without the drawbacks. Realistic simulated oak, ash, cedar, mahogany and other finishes can be specified to harmonise with any construction project.

Architects and designers can use Envirowood for a variety of building and garden applications, from doors, frames, architraves and cladding to garden furniture, planters and fencing. The material is UV stable and will not rot, warp, delaminate or harbour woodworm or other pests. The weight and density is very similar to natural wood. Extruded sections are impact resistant and can be sawn and drilled to take mechanical fixings in exactly the same way as wood. Envirowood can also be welded.

While the initial cost of a fabrication in Envirowood is 10 to 20 percent higher than the equivalent of finished hardwood, thereafter maintenance is not required so through life cost savings are made. Samples have withstood immersion in water for more than 30 years without deterioration, so the material will have a long working life.

Designers can select from a range of natural wood colours and finishes and there are many different profiles available. Octaveward provide a complete fabrication and installation service to enable site work to proceed quickly.

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