

Japanese Cedar (Sugi) and Japanese Cypress (Hinoki)

This document sets out the origin, forest management practices, legality verification and carbon characteristics of the Japanese Cedar (Sugi) and Japanese Cypress (Hinoki) supplied by SUGi NZ. It is intended to give architects, specifiers, builders, councils and project owners confidence in the responsible sourcing of our timber, and to support project documentation and specification requirements.

Supporting documentation — including species, country of origin, supplier declarations and legality verification — can be provided on request for individual projects.

1 Timber origin — Japan's plantation forests

Japan is one of the most heavily forested developed nations in the world, with approximately two-thirds of the country covered by forest. Of this forest resource, a substantial proportion consists of managed plantation forests, primarily Japanese Cedar (Sugi) and Japanese Cypress (Hinoki).

Much of the Sugi and Hinoki used in construction today originates from plantation forests established in the decades following the Second World War, planted specifically to provide a renewable, domestic timber supply. Many of these forests have now reached maturity, providing a sustainable source of high-quality timber for architecture, construction and design.

The timber supplied by SUGi NZ originates from this long-term forestry tradition — connecting New Zealand projects with one of the world's most established plantation forestry systems.

2 Forest management and stewardship

These forests are not left to chance. They are actively managed through cycles of **thinning, harvesting and regeneration**, designed to support both timber production and long-term forest health. Harvesting is followed by replanting, maintaining a continuous, renewable resource for future generations.

This management reflects a forestry culture measured in generations rather than years. Many of the sawmilling and forestry families we work with in Japan have planted, tended and harvested the same forests for well over a century — in some cases caring for trees their ancestors planted more than 300 years ago. For them, the forest is an extension of the family itself, and that long-term stewardship is reflected in the quality and consistency of the timber it produces.

3 Legality and GOHO Wood verification

Our suppliers operate within Japan's **GOHO Wood** framework — a government-supported system that promotes the procurement and use of legally harvested timber products.

Through this system, participating suppliers maintain documentation demonstrating the legal origin of timber and compliance with applicable forestry regulations. Documentation is maintained through the supply chain to verify legal origin. SUGi NZ supports the principles of the GOHO Wood programme and works with suppliers operating within this framework.

GOHO Wood is administered through Japan's national framework for verifying the legality of timber and wood products. It is a legality-verification system rather than a sustainability certification scheme such as FSC or PEFC.



OFFICIAL FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTATION

- Outline of Guideline for Verification on Legality and Sustainability of Wood and Wood Products — goho-wood.jp
- "Goho-wood": Japan's measures against illegal logging (leaflet) — goho-wood.jp
- Government Procurement Policy of Japan for Sustainable Forest Management — goho-wood.jp

4 Carbon storage

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow, storing carbon within their timber fibres. When Sugi and Hinoki are harvested and transformed into building materials, a significant portion of that stored carbon remains locked within the timber for the life of the product. In long-life architectural applications, timber can continue to store carbon for decades.

Timber is also a renewable material grown through natural biological processes, and plantation forests are replanted and regenerated after harvest to maintain ongoing supply. As a material, timber generally requires substantially less manufacturing energy than steel, concrete and aluminium, while delivering durability, beauty and performance.

We believe the greatest environmental value of timber lies in creating enduring buildings, interiors and products that remain in service for generations — combining renewable forestry, long-term carbon storage and timeless design.

5 Supporting sustainable forestry communities

Forestry plays an important role in many rural regions of Japan. By specifying Japanese Cedar and Hinoki, architects and designers help sustain the forestry communities, sawmills, manufacturers and craftspeople who continue to invest in the long-term future of these forest resources.

6 Documentation available on request

For project documentation and specification purposes, SUGi NZ can provide information relating to timber species, country of origin, supplier declarations, legality verification (GOHO Wood) and forest management practices. Please contact us to request project-specific documentation.

Key facts

- Approximately **two-thirds of Japan** is covered by forest — among the highest forest cover of any developed nation.
- A substantial proportion of Japan's construction-grade Sugi and Hinoki is sourced from **managed plantation forests**, many established after the Second World War.
- Plantation forests are actively maintained through **thinning, harvesting and regeneration** programmes, with replanting following harvest.
- **GOHO Wood** promotes the procurement and use of legally harvested timber, with documentation maintained through the supply chain.
- Timber **stores carbon** absorbed during tree growth for the life of the product.
- Timber generally has **lower embodied energy** than steel, concrete and aluminium.
- Long-life timber applications support the **efficient use of renewable forest resources**.

SUGi NZ — Japanese Cedar (Sugi) and Japanese Cypress (Hinoki) for New Zealand architecture.

This statement describes responsible sourcing and the carbon-storage characteristics of timber. It is not a life-cycle assessment (LCA) or Environmental Product Declaration (EPD).