

The logo for Prime Veneer, featuring the words "Prime" and "Veneer" stacked vertically in a dark blue, sans-serif font. A thin white diagonal line is positioned to the left of the text.

Briefing

What is 'sustainably-sourced' New Zealand native veneer?

The availability of beautiful New Zealand timber veneers such as rimu, kauri, totara, tawa and beech is highly variable and is becoming more difficult to source.

There are two ways in which native timber can be legally supplied for veneer, and both are subject to stringent controls under the New Zealand Forest Act 1949 and its various amendments. Native timbers can only be taken from forests in a way that maintains forest cover and ecological balance and by forest owners with a Sustainable Forest Management Permit and with a Sustainable Forest Management Plan. They can only be processed by registered sawmills which are audited by MPI.

1. Salvaged timber covers trees that have fallen naturally within a permitted area, or timber that was felled before July 1989 or stumps from timber felled before that date.
2. Felled timber covers trees milled within a specified and permitted area of indigenous forest. The permit limits the timber felling to "250 cubic metres of podocarp or kauri or shade-tolerant, exposure-sensitive, broadleaved hardwood species and 500 cubic metres of beech or other light-demanding hardwood species". The volumes cannot be higher than 10% of the native timber within the specified area

Permits for harvesting native timbers are overseen by the Ministry for Primary Industry.

Prime Panels takes great care to ensure that all its New Zealand native timber veneers are sourced from mills that have current permits for the provision of indigenous timber.

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