# Products Made From Wood

Terry Conners, Extension Specialist in Forest Products

List created July, 2002 from a number of other lists, with additions.

Corrections and Additions will be welcomed! (tconners@uky.edu)

## Solid Wood Products

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<th>Lumber and plywood to build new homes</th>
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<td><strong>Seesaws</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Model airplanes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ship masts and yardarms</strong></td>
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<td>Cellos</td>
<td><strong>Coffins</strong></td>
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<td>Bassoons</td>
<td><strong>Rolling pins</strong></td>
<td><strong>Piano masts (wooden)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Drums</td>
<td><strong>Rolling pins</strong></td>
<td><strong>Guitar strings</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Knife handles  
Children’s puzzles  
Work benches  
Toboggans  
Bookcases  
Park benches  
Gun racks and cabinets  
Billboards  
Snow fences  
Trellises  
Parallel bars  
Log houses  
Bowling alley lanes  
Bowling pins  
Railroad crossing gates  
Rural bridges  
Tent poles  
Hurdles  
Lobster pots and floats  
Wooden matches  
Parts of snowboards, skis  
and skateboards  
Ventriloquist dummies  
Name tags  
Flagpoles (for smaller flags)  
Cribs  
Police batons  
Planters  
Dowels  
Scaffold planks  
Concrete forms  
Glu-lam beams (used to  
create long open  
spaces, as in  
churches)  
Excelsior  
Veneer  
Bushel baskets  
Pants hangers  
Kitchen counters  
Woodcut artwork  
Merry-go-Round horses  
Birdhouses  
Snowshoes  
Woodworking clamps  
Spinning wheels  
Baskets  
Novelties such as Nutcrackers  
Checker sets  
Jewelry boxes  
Foundry patterns  
Crates  
Garage doors  
Theatre scenery  
Gunstocks  
Beehives  
Mallets  
Butcher blocks  
Organ pipes  
Crucifixes  
Drafting tables  
Ballot boxes  
Doll houses  
Test tube racks  
Wine racks  
Handrails  
Stake-body truck sides  
Gerbil chew sticks (balsa wood)  
Yo-yos  
Dice  
Silverware chests  
Venetian blinds  
Billiard cue sticks  
Fuel for meat smokers  
Spices and flavorings  
Allspice  
Anatto  
Bay leaves  
Cinnamon  
Clove  
Filé (Sassafras leaves, used to  
thicken gumbos)  
Juniper berries (gin flavoring)  
Mace  
Nutmeg  
Orange blossoms (flavored  
water)  
Chips for smoking meat  
Sassafras oil is used as a soap  
perfume  
Logs provide nutrients for shiitake  
mushrooms  
Cutting boards  
Model airplanes  
“Biscuits” for wood joining  

**Products that Used to be Made**  

**From Wood**  
(Some of these may still be made from  
wood for specialty products.)  

- Water pipes  
- Bocce balls  
- Tennis rackets  
- Car dashboards  
- Golf clubs  
- Conestoga wagons  
- Clocks and clock gears  
- Waterwheels  
- Printing press type  
- Printing presses  
- Deckle boxes (frames used to make paper  
  by hand)  
- Paper presses (to squeeze the water out  
of handmade paper)  
- Woodworking planes  
- Cigar store Indians  
- Weaving shuttles and bobbins  
- Wooden shoes  
- Bows and arrows  
- Wooden wheels for automobiles and  
  wagons  
- Pull toys  
- Sextants  
- Street paving blocks  
- Rocking horses  
- Fun house barrels  
- Fishing lures  
- Storage battery separators (hard rubber)  
- Water tanks  
- Wardrobes/armoires  
- Model “T” coil boxes  
- Automobile chassis  
- Ironing boards  
- Treenails  
- Post and beam timber framing  
- Cabinets for Analytical balances  
- Shoe lasts  
- Radio, television and phonograph/stereo  
cabinets  
- Butter churns  
- Harpsichords  
- Railroad cars  
- Aircraft propellers and airframes  
- Minesweeper boats, PT boats  
- Silos  
- Fermentation vats  
- Cigar boxes  
- Racing shells (one to eight-man rowed  
  boats)  
- Wringers for washing machines  
- Telephones  
- Wood creosote used to be used as a  
  laxative, a disinfectant and a cough  
treatment (rarely used nowadays).  
- Woodworking tools  
  - Planes  
  - Carpenter levels  
  - Carpenter rules  
  - Tool chests  
- Gear shift knobs  
- Butter molds  
- Slide rules  
- Phonographs  
- Bicycles  
- Traveler’s writing desks  
- Cigar molds  
- Artist’s pallets  
- Washboards  
- Skis  
- Water well structures  
- Water pump enclosures  
- Wheel chairs  
- Candlesticks  
- Warships  
- Wardrobe trunks  
- Maple syrup buckets  
- Abacus  
- Pulleys  
- Gallows  
- Milking stools  
- Insulator pins  
- Plates and bowls  
- Artificial limbs  
- Sled runners  
- Iceboxes and refrigerators  
- Gutters  
- Spruce gum was used for chewing gum
Sassafras tea
Canoes
Automobile tires (used rayon as reinforcing cord)
Shoe pegs (used to fasten shoe soles to the leather uppers)
Dragon’s blood (from fruit of Asian tree) was used in the manufacture of varnishes and lacquers
Dyestuffs (prior to invention of synthetic dyes)
Canada balsam (tree resin) was used to make microscope slides
Quinine came from the bark of the Cinchona tree
Willow bark provided the original source of aspirin-like compounds
Cork used to be the gasket material lining bottle caps
Rubber used to be used to waterproof raincoats
Molded wooden figurines
Typewriter keys (Celluloid)
Red elm inner bark used to be steeped in water to obtain a remedy for sore throats
Hickory was a part of the Wright brothers’ airplanes
Cylinder phonograph records used to be made from Carnauba wax because it is so hard
Tool handles were made from celluloid as recently as World War II.
Piano keys were once made from celluloid as an ivory substitute.

**Things Made from Wood that Formerly Were Made from Something Else**

Paper (used to be made from cotton and linen rags)

**Non-Wood/Non-Paper Products**

Shade!

**Nuts**
- Cola nuts (Coca-Cola etc.)
- Almonds
- Brazil nuts
- Cashews
- Hazelnuts
- Pistachios
- Walnuts
- Pecans
- Hickory nuts
- Chestnuts
- Pine nuts
- Acorns (decorative uses)

**Fruits**
- Apples
- Avocados
- Coffee
- Peaches
- Oranges
- Lemons
- Limes
- Bananas
- Pears
- Tangerines
- Coconuts
- Dates
- Grapefruit
- Olives and olive oil
- Plums
- Figs

**Fruit juices**
- Carot (a cocoa substitute)
- Cider
- Mistletoe (grows as a symbiastic on trees)
- Eucalyptus leaves (floral component, also used for fragrance)
- Carnauba wax (from the leaves of the carnauba palm tree grown in Brazil). Used in:
  - Shoe polish
  - Lipsticks
  - Automotive waxes
  - Furniture polish
  - Applied to produce to make it look appealing in supermarkets.

**Products from Wood Sap or Extractives:**
- Citrus cleaners (oils)
- Lime scent for aftershave
- Sandalwood fragrance for soap and incense
- Maple syrup
- Rubber
- Rubber products
- Golf balls
- Tires
- Marine and underwater cable insulation
- Adhesives
- Combs (hard rubber)
- Latex gloves and other barrier-type of medical products
- Rubber belts
- Rubber hoses
- Gaskets
- Shoe soles
- Rubber boots
- Rubber balls
- Turpentine (most of it comes from wood pulping operations)
- Rosin
- Pine needle extract (an anti-inflammatory)
- Rosewood oil (various medicinal uses)
- Taxol (anti-cancer drug)
- Frankincense
- Myrrh

**Products that Used to be Made From Cork**

(\textit{Some of these may still be made as specialty products.})
- Bottle caps gaskets for carbonated beverages
- Life jackets (until 1857 – now mostly polystyrene)
- Life preservers (polystyrene now)
- Fishing rod handles (now mostly Hypalon®)
- Sheet insulation (e.g., for refrigerators)
- Rocket nose cones (a cork-ceramic composite)

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**Paper and Fluff Products**

Computer and copy paper
- Book paper
- Book marks
- Envelopes
- Checkbooks
- Bulk mail
- Bills
- Instruction manuals
- Packaging cards for blister-packed products
Calendars
Diplomas and Certificates
Report cards
Lamp shades
Book covers
Concert posters
Identification badges
Newsletters
Recipe cards
Salt boxes
Sugar and flour bags
Can labels (except for tomato cans for some unknown reason!)
Bottle and jar labels
Cereal boxes
Shelf labels in grocery stores
Adhesive-backed labels
Receipts
Menus
Poster board
Baking cups
Coupons
US currency is not made from wood pulp— it’s made from cotton and flax fibers
Coffee filters
Facial and bath tissue
Packaging for facial and bath tissue (the boxes and wrappers)
Napkins
Sanitary and surgical absorbent products
Disposable diapers
Kites
Catalogs
Game boards
Masking tape
Crepe paper
Birthday and Christmas wrapping paper
Stickers
Coloring books
Flashlight battery labels
Paper dolls
Baseball cards
Tracing paper
Election ballots
Milk cartons
Egg cartons
Postage stamps
Paper towels
Playing cards
Building insulation, loose and in panel form
Grocery Bags
Paper Cups
File Folders
Post-It Notes®
CD labels
DVD and VCR tape packaging
Magazines
Magazine card inserts
Postcards
Maps
Fast food packaging

Frozen food boxes
Construction paper
Kraft paper (wrapping paper)
Multi-wall sacks for birdseed and pet foods
Price tags
Sandpaper
Seed starter blocks
Loudspeaker cones
Origami paper
Tea bags are usually not made from wood pulp—they are mostly made from abaca, also known as Manila hemp
Tea bag labels are made of wood-based paper
Cigarette papers and vacuum cleaner bags are made from hemp or flax fiber!
Bible paper
Wallpaper
Tubes for bathroom tissue and paper towels
Artificial snow (paper snow)
Wax paper
Confetti
Admixture with sprayed-on grass seed
Food additive (non-digestible cellulose dietary fiber). Used in diet drink products, food texture enhancer. (In the late 1970s, a “diet bread” used cellulose fiber from wood as one of its ingredients.)
Butcher paper
Musical instrument cases (“cardboard” type, as for guitars)
Phone books
Photographs
Newspapers
Tickets
Business cards
Roofing felt
Ice cream containers
Pizza boxes
Disposable tablecloths
Retail software boxes
Corrugated cartons
Ceiling tiles
Absorbent socks for oil spills
Absorbent liners for supermarket meat trays
Stationery and notebook paper
NCR (no carbon required) paper
Tax forms
Marriage licenses, birth and death certificates and other civil documents
Racing forms
Programs for sporting events
Fiber filler for plastics:
  Tool handles
  Football helmets
  Buttons
  Eyeglass frames
  Ball point pens

Electronics cases (televisions, calculators, computers)
Loudspeakers
Automobile parts (e.g., door panels)
Packaging
Trays
Thermoformed products like gun cases
Marine/Trailer flooring
Wood-plastic composite lumber:
  Garden benches
  Picnic tables
  Planters
  Fencing
  Decking

Signs
Parking stops for parking lots
Spare tire covers
Melamine paper-faced board

**Things that Formerly Were Made from Wood-Based Paper**

Oil cans
Candy bar wrappers
Grocery bags (some still are made from paper!)
Library catalog cards (supplanted by computer files)
Drinking straws
Shotgun cartridges
Carbon paper
Bumper stickers (now made out of vinyl except for the peel-off paper on the backside)
Computer cards (now entirely electronic!)

**Products Made from Wood-Derived Chemicals**

(Processed products, not oils or latex, etc. Some cellulose products may derive from other cellulose sources such as cotton linters, depending on economics and manufacturer.)

Textiles (Rayon, Tencel™)
Cellulose acetate (wrapping and photographic film)

Cellulose nitrate (former composition of movie film, except that it was very flammable and unstable with age)

Celluloid (rarely produced nowadays, except for guitar picks and pick guards, fountain pens, accordion cases and ping-pong balls. Formerly used for costume jewelry, clocks, etc.)

Cellulose acetate and cellulose nitrate are both used in adhesives and lacquers.)
Additive to unfired ceramics to give them strength
Fungicides
Hair spray
Cosmetics – including thickeners such as methyl cellulose and methyl hydroxy ethyl cellulose
Methanol (used in colognes, solvents)
Torula yeast (a food supplement) is grown on wood sugars and wood mineral nutrients leftover from pulping operations. This is used in baby foods, imitation bacon, cereals, baked goods, etc.
Tannin (used in natural tanning process, less common than formerly)
Carnauba wax is commonly used as a pill coating.
Liquid Smoke®
Linoleum (oxidized linseed oil mixed with pine resin and wood flour)
Acetic acid (produced by distillation of wood)
Biofuels from wood distillation
Liquid nail polish
Shaving cream (tea tree oil, camphor, etc., varies by manufacturer)
Suntan lotion (e.g., almond oil (emollient); clove bud oil (scent); cocoa butter (emollient))
Ink (incorporate tall oil rosins from hard pines)
Tall oil fatty acids and derivatives are used as:
PVC stabilizers
Synthetic lubricants
Polyamides
Corrosion inhibitors
Soaps
Detergents
Emulsifiers
Rubber processing additives
Asphalt additives
Concrete additives
Epoxy additives
Plasticizers
Metalworking chemicals
Oil field chemicals
Rosin-based adhesive products
Also, see the list of products from Extractives (above)

CMC (carboxymethyl cellulose) is used as a food thickener and texturizer for products such as ketchup and ice cream (depending on manufacturer); also used to stabilize oil well drilling muds.

Cellulose-based pill fillers
Cellophane (wrapping material, also used for Easter basket grass!)
Toothpaste additives (e.g., cellulose gum)
“Plastic” twine
Hardhats and sports helmets
Cigarette filters (cellulose acetate fibers)
Cellulose industrial filters
Sausage casings
Cellulose sponges/Artificial vanilla flavoring (by-product of Kraft process pulping)
Cleaning compounds
Chewing gum is a combination of natural rubber (especially chicle, from the Sapodilla trees from Central and South America) with some synthetic latexes to extend the natural latex supply. Other wood chemicals such as rosin esters and terpenes are also common ingredients.

To grow a pound of wood, a tree uses 1.47 pounds of carbon dioxide and gives off 1.07 pounds of oxygen.
The following information is copied from the website of the Temperate Forest Foundation [http://www.forestinfo.org/Discover/facts.htm#Recycling]:

- In 1995, some 1.6 billion seedlings were planted in the U.S. - more than 5 new trees a year for every American. Millions of additional trees were naturally reforested.
- Private owners account for 59% of the nation’s 490 million acres of commercial forestland; government owns 27%; and the forest industry owns 14%.
- Each person in the United States consumes approximately 675 pounds of paper a year.
- On the average, everyone uses the equivalent of a tree, 18 inches in diameter - 100 foot tall, every year. That’s 80 cubic feet!

The United States is a wood-rich country; people in the United States (on average) use about three times as much wood each day as people in the rest of the world. One of the most common uses for wood around the world is for fuel!

And finally, a surprise for (almost) all Kentuckians:

3M Corporation’s popular product, Post-It Notes, are manufactured exclusively in Cynthiana, (Harrison County), Kentucky!