Used Hardwood Pallet Deckboards Make Great Flooring for Green Home Building

Philip A. Araman1* and Urs Buehlmann2

1Southern Research Station
U.S. Forest Service
Blacksburg, VA 24060 USA
2Department of Wood Science
and Forest Products
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061 USA

ABSTRACT

There are many national and regional green building systems for home and commercial building in the United States. In the name of material sustainability and the right thing to do, all of the green building systems desire and reward with points the use of products made from recovered/used materials. The Green Building Systems refer to these as recycled products. One such recycled product is hardwood flooring from used pallet deckboards. Research has shown that used pallet deckboards can be used to manufacture recycled flooring without heavy investment in labor and equipment. However, to make this innovative product a market success, things like material sources (used deckboards), the flooring market, and ways to reach consumers need to be assessed. The flooring can be produced with recycling signature nail holes (proving that it is from recycled wood) and other character marks such as knots and holes that can be left in the floorboards. Recycled pallet flooring offers environmentally conscious consumers a green product that is viewed positively by the green building schemes and that also has a beautiful appearance.

* Corresponding author; Tel.: (001) 540.231-5341; Fax: (001) 540.231-1383; E-mail: paraman@vt.edu