

DESIGNER'S ROADMAP TO SUSTAINABILITY



START HERE
 What are your sustainability goals for your clients? Environmental stewardship? Health home space?

RESEARCH
 Look for brands with strong sustainability credentials and certifications.

IDENTIFY
 Use a "GOOD, BETTER, BEST" strategy for clients.

NATURAL & RESPONSIBLY SOURCED
 Opt for materials that are renewable and have a lower environmental impact, such as bamboo, wool, and organic cotton, and ensure they are sustainably harvested.

NONTOXIC
 Choose finishes and adhesives that are low in volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Look for natural fibers like wool, organic cotton, hemp, and linen that are processed without toxic chemicals.

RECYCLED
 Use reclaimed wood and other materials to reduce the need for new resources and minimize waste. Opt for materials with high recycled content, such as recycled glass, metal, and composite materials. Incorporate upcycled furniture and decor items that have been repurposed or refurbished.

FACTORIES
 Investigate energy efficiency, water usage, and waste management.

Research manufacturers' websites and use tools like Toxnot

LIFE OF PRODUCT
 Choose durable products with minimal maintenance. Consider the lifecycle of materials and products, ensuring they are designed for disassembly and recycling at the end of their use.

THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATIONS
 Ensure products have relevant environmental certifications (FSC, GreenGuard, Oeko-Tex, GOLS, GOTS).

AFFILIATIONS
 Look for sustainable, environmental and health related affiliations/memberships.

ANALYZE CARBON FOOTPRINT
 Evaluate carbon emissions during production and transportation from raw materials to finished product.

FAIR LABOR
 Check for fair labor practices in the US and in overseas facilities.

CORPORATE CITIZEN
 Look at company's community involvement and charitable giving.

PROJECT BUDGET
 Ensure products fit within the project's budget.

BE SELECTIVE
 If necessary, choose products that carry the most sustainable value and fit within budget.

YOUR SUSTAINABLE VISION
 After considering sustainable attributes (materials, manufacturing, certifications), select those furnishings that compliment your design vision.

