

CO₂ - Wood and Concrete

The Wood Industry says that Wood is Good, but let's look at some facts.

- a. Wood (a tree) sequesters CO₂ (absorbs it through photosynthesis). Their literature says this.
- b. Their literature does not say that Wood **respirates** CO₂ (releases it when it is burned or rots). The quantity of CO₂ that is being released from rotting wood killed by the pine beetle in British Columbia is more than all industries combined.

True Sequestration – an attribute long associated to wood – will only function if a tree or wood product is buried at its end of life. Researchers claim that wood or wood products (provided the latter does not contain inappropriate chemicals or adhesives necessary for durability and in engineered wood products used in structural applications) need to be buried 50-100 metres below ground for true sequestration to take place. Their literature does not say this.

- c. Their literature also does not say that:
 1. Deforestation accounts for **25% of the global CO₂ emissions**. The amount of energy (electricity, chemicals and GHG and CO₂ release) that it takes to cut down trees, transport, process, manufacture and deliver wood and wood products is massive.
 2. Deforestation is also harmful to water runoff control and causes soil erosion.
 3. Wood is not a local material.

On the other hand the concrete industry tells people that...

- a. Concrete uses Portland cement which produces CO₂ when it is manufactured (sorry, can't help it) and Industry is working with great results in reducing its emissions.
- b. ECO CONCRETE manufacturing practices greatly minimize any CO₂ footprint.
- c. Concrete actually pays back with Sustainability -

• Concrete absorbs CO ₂ through its life in a structure	• Wood does not
• Concrete absorbs CO ₂ when crushed and recycled	• Wood does not
• Concrete's Thermal Mass can save energy use and CO ₂ emissions in buildings	• Wood cannot
• Concrete is a local product made from local materials	• Wood is not
• Concrete can protect from weather extremes and seismic activities	• Wood cannot
• Concrete can be easily and totally recycled	• Wood cannot without releasing CO ₂
• Concrete can reduce heat island affect	• Wood cannot
• Wood can rot	• Concrete cannot
• Wood can grow mould	• Concrete cannot
• Wood can burn	• Concrete cannot
• Concrete lasts longer	

Ask a firefighter if they would rush into a Wood building that is on fire – guess the answer.