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Panels Lumber Melamine Hardwood Plywood



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Architectural Panels Colored Caulk Particle



Technical Information

In this section is a species guide that provides detailed information about the color, texture and characteristics of various wood species. Additionally, you will find a glossary with common terms used in the lumber industry.

This data has been compiled through a variety of resources, including information provided by associations with whom we have affiliations, including:

American Hardwood Export Council – www.ahec.org

Architectural Woodwork Institute – www.awinet.org

Forest History Society – www.lib.duke.edu/forest

Forest Stewardship Council – www.fsc.org

Hardwood Distributors Association – www.hardwooddistributors.com

Hardwood Manufacturers Association – www.hmamembers.org

Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association – www.hpva.org

National Hardwood Lumber Association – www.natllhardwood.org

Wood Components Manufacturers Association – www.woodcomponents.org

U.S. Green Building Council – www.usgbc.org

For MSDS sheets, please contact your sales representative or visit the manufacturer's Web site:

Amana Tool – www.amanatool.com

Arborite – www.arborite.com

Brookside Veneers – www.veneers.com

ColorRite – www.colorrитеinc.com

Columbia Forest Products – www.columbiaforestproducts.com

Extira – www.extira.com

Ferrari – www.ferrarispа.it

Liri – www.liriamerica.com

Medite and Medex Industrial Panels – www.sierrapine.com

Mohawk Finishing Products – www.mohawk-finishing.com

Neatform Bending Panels – www.neatconcepts.com

Timber Products Company – www.timberproducts.com

Uniboard – www.uniboard.com/en

SPECIES GUIDE

Afrormosia

Other names: African Teak, Kokrodua, Assamela

Wood Description:

The sapwood is golden light brown in color and clearly demarcated from the orange-brown heartwood. The heartwood tends to be lightly streaked and turns brownish-yellow with exposure to light and air. Streaks tend to darken with exposure and may become a deep crimson-brown with bands of lighter, golden brown. In appearance, Afrormosia can resemble fine-grained Teak. It usually has a straight, slightly interlocked grain with a medium to fine texture.

Origin:

Afrormosia grows throughout areas of West and Central Africa, and is found mostly along the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon, and Congo, as well as Nigeria and Zaire.

Comments:

Afrormosia is often used in furniture, furniture components and kitchen cabinets. It is also used for boat building, shipbuilding, canoes, rustic furniture and utility furniture.

Alder

Other names: Red Alder, Western Alder

Wood Description:

Alder, when freshly cut, is very pale – almost white in color. As it begins to oxidize, the color grows deeper and takes on golden and red tones. Heartwood occurs only in trees of advanced age. The boundary between alder sapwood and heartwood is virtually invisible. The wood has a fine, uniform textured with a straight, yet subdued grain.

Origin:

Alder thrives throughout the Pacific Northwest, with growth occurring from Alaska, down through several Canadian provinces, and as far south as Southern California. It is the most abundant commercial hardwood in the Western United States.

Comments:

We stock 4/4 alder from Oregon in several grades. Alder usually is sold by mill priority grades: superior grade, cabinet grade, frame stock. The package lengths are heavy eight-foot and boards usually average five to seven inches in width.

Alder is popular for use in cabinetry and upholstery framing due to its stability and excellent tack holding qualities. Alder stains and polishes well and is often used as a cherry substitute.

Anigre

Other names: Aniegre, Anegre, Anningeria

Wood Description:

Anigre is a blonde wood with sapwood that is not well demarcated. The heartwood ranges in tone from cream and yellowish-white to tan with a pinkish tinge, and generally presents an even color. Anigre is about the same weight as African mahogany, with a medium to coarse texture. The texture is fine in higher wood grades. The wood is lustrous, yet siliceous, and usually has a straight grain, although wavy or mottle figure is sometimes present. Anigre has a faint cedar-like odor.

Origin:

Anigre is found throughout Africa, with commercial varieties coming mainly from the Ivory Coast. The wood was introduced, first from Tanzania, only in the late 1960s.

Comments:

Anigre has gained popularity in recent years for uses in modern architecture. Its smooth, tight grain and light, neutral colors lend itself to modern design. Anigre is used for furniture and decorative furniture veneers, cabinetry and high-class joinery. It is also a popular wood for plywood core stock and utility plywood.

Ash

Wood Description:

Ash is a ring-porous wood with prominent growth ring patterns. The sapwood is light in color and can vary from a creamy color to nearly white. Depending on the species, the heartwood can vary in color from pale yellow to light brown with grayish tones, sometimes tinged with red. A very straight-grained wood, ash can appear similar to red oak, with a coarse, even texture.

Origin:

American ash is readily available and grows predominantly through the middle and northern Atlantic regions, extending into Canada. Some species also grow abundantly in the Appalachian region.

Comments:

We stock southern Appalachian ash, which tends to be whiter and a softer texture than northern tough ash. Ash is often substituted for red oak in furniture construction, due to its favorable price value.

Ash is also a popular wood for sports uses, including water skis, oars, cues and baseball bats. Its bending properties and other characteristics also make it a favorite for use as tool handles and boat parts. Other uses include flooring, paneling, decorative woodwork, furniture and cabinets.

Basswood

Other names: Whitewood, Linden

Wood Description:

The sapwood of basswood is very pale and may appear white or cream-colored, or a pale, pinkish-tan. The heartwood is also very pale with occasional brown or reddish streaks. The very light tones of both sapwood and heartwood make it difficult to differentiate between the two. The wood is relatively soft for a hardwood, and has a fine, even texture. The grain is straight, and essentially, indistinct.

Origin:

Basswood is most commonly found in the Great Lakes Region, including areas of both Canada and the United States. Growth areas extend east to Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and south through portions of West Virginia, Kentucky and East Tennessee.

Comments:

Our major suppliers are located in West Virginia. Basswood is an important tree in the Appalachian area, but only represents about eight percent of the volume of timber. Due to limited availability, basswood can be in tight supply.

Basswood is used in window treatments as shade rollers and for wooden blinds. The soft characteristics of basswood make it a popular choice for carving and turning. It is also used for boxes, crates, cabinetry and as a plywood substrate.

Beech, European Steamed

Wood Description:

Beech heartwood varies from pale pink-brown to a rich, reddish-brown when steamed. The sapwood is pale with a slight red tinge. A characteristic fleck makes the fine, even texture of the close, straight grain readily recognizable.

Origin:

Beech is found throughout Europe, in the U.K. and parts of West Asia.

Comments:

European beech is imported to the U.S. for custom cabinetry. It is sometimes substituted for American soft maple or alder and mainly ranges in length from eight to 12 feet.

Its ability to hold polish and wear well makes beech a popular choice for furniture, flooring, doors, general millwork, wooden ware, toys, and handles for brooms and brushes. Since beech has no odor or taste, it is also used for food containers.

Birch

Other names: Sweet Birch, Yellow Birch, Paper Birch

Wood Description:

Depending on the species, birch sapwood appears light, with a cream-like or white color. The heartwood may be light reddish-brown or dark brown tinged with red. The close, straight grain is finely textured and uniform in appearance, with the grain more prominent in yellow birch than paper birch. On occasion, some birch species will present a curly grain.

Origin:

Birch grows throughout the northeastern United States and is the state tree of New Hampshire. It also thrives in the Great Lakes area, including lake areas in southern Canada. Yellow and sweet birch can be found in the Appalachians, extending into areas of northern Georgia. Availability is limited to some extent.

Comments:

Typically, we stock northern birch lumber that is sold as a select and better grade. Birch is a popular hardwood for furniture, furniture frames, decorative woodwork, cabinets and paneling. Birch veneers are extremely popular for high-grade plywood. We inventory numerous grades of birch plywood and veneer.

Bloodwood

Other names: Satine, Satinwood, Satine Rouge, Satine Rubane

Wood Description:

The sapwood of bloodwood is clearly demarcated and yellowish in color. The heartwood varies in color from red with a golden luster, to a deep, rich reddish-brown. The grain ranges from straight to slightly interlocked and wavy. It is fine textured and enhanced by a satiny appearance

Origin:

Bloodwood grows in the Amazon Basin and a wide range of tropical South American areas, including French Guiana, Venezuela, Peru and Brazil. It also grows in areas of Panama.

Comments:

Bloodwood's vivid red color makes it popular for decorative veneers used in small quantities for marquetry, inlay and for banding in high-end furniture and cabinetry.

Bocote

Other names: Cordia, Ziricote

Wood Description:

Bocote sapwood is usually light brown, but may also be brownish-red, yellow, or pale green. The heartwood ranges in color from a light golden brown to a chocolate brown, with irregular reddish to dark brown streaks. Bocote is usually straight grained with a medium to coarse texture.

Origin:

Bocote grows in Mexico and Central America, including Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Colombia. It also is found in the Caribbean, including the islands of Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

Comments:

Bocote is ideal for decorative accents in small projects. Its ability to be drilled end-grain and develop a high luster in finishing makes it popular for pen makers.

Bubinga

Other names: African Rosewood, Kevasingo, Kewazinga

Wood Description:

Bubinga sapwood is very pale with clear demarcations. A variety of colors can be found in the heartwood, that include pink, vivid red, or red-brown with purple veining. On exposure, the veining becomes less conspicuous, and the deep colors fade to yellow or medium brown with a reddish tint. Bubinga has a fine, even texture with a straight or interlocked grain.

Origin:

Bubinga grows in Equatorial Africa, from Cameroon and Gabon to southeast Nigeria, to the Congo region, and to some extent, in Zaire.

Comments:

Bubinga is often used for knife and brush handles. The most popular use of bubinga is as veneers, especially the highly figured logs. Decorative veneers are used on furniture and cabinets and for paneling. The figured veneers are especially desirable for furniture inlays, with pomele figure being the most popular.

Bubinga Pomele

Other names: African Rosewood, Kevasingo, Kewazinga

Wood Description:

Bubinga sapwood is very pale with clear demarcations. A variety of colors can be found in the heartwood, that include pink, vivid red, or red-brown with purple veining. On exposure, the veining becomes less conspicuous, and the deep colors fade to yellow or medium brown with a reddish tint. Bubinga has a fine, even texture with a straight or interlocked grain. Bubinga from the Gabon area often has a wavy grain (pomele), and is sometimes highly figured, producing a decorative appearance when flat- and quarter-sawn.

Origin:

Bubinga grows in Equatorial Africa, from Cameroon and Gabon to southeast Nigeria, to the Congo region, and to some extent, in Zaire.

Comments:

Unusual and beautiful curved figuring makes bubinga pomele an excellent choice for architectural woodwork and veneers, furniture inlays and musical instruments. The most popular use of bubinga is as veneers, especially the highly figured logs.

Canary Wood

Other names: Yellow Poplar, Canary Poplar, Ariba, Tarara, Porcupine Wood

Wood Description:

Canary wood sapwood is a light brown color that contrasts sharply from the vibrant heartwood colors ranging from brown to yellow, with red and purple stripes in the grain pattern. Its grain is straight and coarse, similar to oak, with a hard texture. This wood is similar to Brazilian tulip wood, but not as dense and less expensive.

Origin:

Canary wood is found in areas of South America, especially Bolivia.

Comments:

Canary wood gained wide usage for furniture framing and drawers in the early part of the twentieth century. Today, it often is used for mouldings and millwork, boxes, and other small projects.

Cedar, Aromatic Red

Other names: Eastern Red Cedar, Tennessee Aromatic Red Cedar

Wood Description:

Cedar is known for its attractive red color and sweet smell. The heartwood ranges in color from medium reddish-brown to a deep orange-red and the sapwood is a yellow-white and contrasts sharply with the heartwood. Growth rings are clearly visible with strong contrast between early wood zones and denser, late wood zones. The grain is usually straight, although often marred by knots, and has a coarse texture. Cedar is most well known for its scent and its ability to repel or kill most insects that might damage clothing and linens.

Origin:

Aromatic cedar is found in abundance in a specific region of the United States that ranges from east Texas, across Oklahoma into Tennessee.

Comments:

Cedar is used often in chests and closets for its aromatic and insect-repelling purposes. Because of its natural resistance to decay, cedar also is used in outdoor furniture and decorative garden accessories, as well as for gates, decks and fences.

Cedar, Spanish

Other names: South American Cedar, Brazilian Cedar, Cigar-box Cedar

Wood Description:

The heartwood of Spanish cedar ranges in color from pinkish- to reddish-brown, when first cut. The color darkens as it ages to a dark reddish-brown, and sometimes displays a purplish tinge. The sapwood ranges in tones from white to pinkish-white. The grain is prominent and usually straight, but sometimes appears interlocked. The wood texture ranges from fine and uniform to coarse and uneven, with a medium luster. Spanish cedar produces a distinctive odor and is often oily on the surface.

Origin:

Spanish cedar grows in Central and South America from Mexico to Argentina. It is found in all South American countries except Chile.

Comments:

Spanish cedar is popular for use in cigar boxes, blanket chests, and boat building.

Brazilian Cherry

Other name: Jatoba

Wood Description:

Brazilian cherry has a medium to coarse texture and ranges in color from an orange-brown to red-brown. The wood is usually streaked with dark or russet brown stripes. Brazilian cherry is a medium- to coarse-textured wood with an interlocked grain. The golden luster of Brazilian cherry (jatoba) blends well with American cherry. Brazilian cherry is an extremely dense wood that is hard and very strong. This density and the interlocked grain make it moderately difficult to work with hand or machine tools. A moderate blunting of tools is to be expected. Brazilian cherry does not hold nails well, but has good gluing properties. The wood can be stained with a range of dark stains, but does not take a high polish.

Origin:

Brazilian cherry grows on ridges or slopes and high riverbanks throughout Central and South America, including southern Mexico, to areas of northern Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. It is also found in the West Indies.

Comments:

Brazilian cherry is now used widely in premium flooring. Its dense texture makes it a logical choice. Brazilian cherry is also used as tool handles, stair treads, ship planking, and building construction. Additional uses include furniture and cabinet making.

Cherry

Wood Description:

Cherry heartwood offers a beautiful, light reddish-brown color that darkens with age and exposure to sunlight. Some heartwoods take on reddish tones similar to mahogany and deepen over time to a dark reddish-brown with golden overtones. The sapwood can be very light, ranging in shades from white to pale yellow. The straight, tight, satiny grain of cherry can be marred by flecks or small gum pockets.

Origin:

Cherry is found in the midwestern and eastern United States, with a high area of concentration in Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and New York. Cherry only represents one percent of the volume of timber and lumber production in the Appalachian region.

Comments:

We often find excellent cherry from the higher elevations in western North Carolina and West Virginia. Due to the premium paid for veneer logs, saw log quality for lumber has suffered in recent years.

Cherry is highly prized for fine furniture, cabinetry, mouldings and decorative millwork. It is also an excellent choice for high-end paneling, boat interiors and musical instruments.

Curly Cherry

Wood Description:

See description under cherry.

Comments:

Limited availability in lumber.

Curly cherry most often is used for fine furniture, cabinetry, musical instruments and decorative millwork. Select, "curly" logs are sliced into decorative veneers and used as furniture inlays and for high-end paneling.

Wormy Chestnut

Other name: American Chestnut

Wood Description:

The distinctive appearance of wormy chestnut was caused by a blight in the early part of the twentieth century, producing a repeated pattern that looks similar to worm holes. The heartwood is pale brown to grayish-brown, with golden tones that darken with age. The wide growth rings are prominent. The sapwood is very pale – almost white in appearance. Chestnut is straight-grained and can appear similar to oak.

Origin:

American chestnut trees were killed by the blight early last century. Few trees survive until maturity, which makes chestnut, logs unavailable. Hybrid chestnut trees have been planted for chestnuts.

Comments:

Wormy chestnut is extremely rare and very limited. Some lumber and veneer stock still exists and price is usually negotiated at the time of purchase. The distinctive look and repeated pattern of worm holes makes it a favorite in hunting lodges or high-end architectural libraries.

Cocobolo

Wood Description:

When first cut, the heartwood of cocobolo displays a wide range of colors, from rich red to variegated streaks of yellow and red-orange colors. It fades on exposure to a deep, rich orange with black stripes and mottling. It has a fine texture and irregular, interlocked grain.

Origin:

Cocobolo is found along the western coast of Mexico, Central and South America.

Comments:

Cocobolo is popular for turnery, cutlery handles, wooden jewelry and small decorative items. It slices beautifully into veneers, which highlight the grain and figure of the wood. Its oily nature allows it to cut smoothly and polish easily.

Ebony, Black African

Other names: Madagascar Ebony, Nigerian Ebony

Wood Description:

African ebony varies in color from grey to jet black. It may be solid black, or black/brown and streaked with black/brown. The sapwood is pink when first cut, darkening to a muted red-brown. The texture is very fine, with a grain that may be straight to slightly interlocked, or somewhat curly.

Origin:

African ebony forms nearly pure stands in riverbank areas of Equatorial West Africa, including southern Nigeria, Ghana, Cameroon and Zaire.

Comments:

African ebony is used often as parts of musical instruments, including piano and organ keys and violin fingerboards. It also is used as handles for cutlery and tools, and as brush backs. As saw-cut veneers, it is used to repair antiques. Supply is sporadic and usable stock is usually small in size.

Ebony, Brazilian

Other names: Brazilian Walnut, Brazilian Gombeira, Iron tree, Tajibo

Wood Description:

Brazilian ebony is a dense, heavy wood that can be found in a wide range of colors and figures, from solid with even color, to streaked and marbled-like figure. The heartwood ranges from olive-brown to near black and can have lighter or darker markings that are sharply separated from the sapwood, which is lighter and yellow in appearance. When first cut, the colors and figure are bright and bold. Once exposed to air and light, the brightness of the wood diminishes and takes on a darker, more subtle appearance. Brazilian ebony is a low-luster wood with an oily appearance. The wood texture is usually fine and uniform, but can range from ultra-fine to medium in texture. The grain that is almost always straight, but also can range from straight to very irregular.

Origin:

Brazilian ebony is found throughout the rain forests and mountains of Paraguay, Argentina and Brazil in South America.

Comments:

This species is a good choice for decking and planking, both inside and out, as well as railings, mouldings, cap rails, trim work and fittings. It is often used in dock work, harbor construction or for railroad ties. It is often used for flooring, especially industrial-application flooring, because of its hardness, durability, and shock-resistant properties.

Ebony, Macassar

Other names: Macassar Ebony, Indian Ebony

Wood Description:

Macassar ebony is known for its black and brown/black streaks, which are very visually appealing. Ebony heartwood can range in color from dark brown to grayish-brown, with black streaks or brown mottling. The wood has a fine, even texture and is usually straight-grained.

Origin:

Macassar ebony grows in lower latitudes right round the world, from Southeast Asia, through India, including the East Indies, Philippines, and Celebes Islands, Africa and Central America.

Comments:

Macassar ebony is used for the black keys of keyboard instruments and as fittings for violins. It is also used for cabinetry, brush backs, tools handles and billiard cues. Ebony also is sliced for decorative veneers.

Goncalo Alves

Other name: Tigerwood

Wood Description:

Goncalo alves ranges in color from light golden-brown to reddish-brown with blackish-brown streaks, which gives it the familiar name of tigerwood. It is richly mottled and similar in appearance rosewood. A hard, heavy wood, it has a medium to fine texture and tight, irregular, interlocked grain with alternating layers of hard and soft wood. Goncalo alves is very durable and will take a glass-like finish.

Origin:

Goncalo alves grows throughout tropical South America in areas including Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Comments:

Goncalo alves is a popular wood for high-class furniture, cabinetmaking and decorative work. It's also used for billiard-cue butts, jewelry boxes, bows and paneling. Its durability and density make it an excellent choice for interior flooring and exterior decking. Sliced veneers are used in architectural paneling and face veneering.

Granadillo

Other names: Macacauba, Coyote

Wood Description:

Granadillo varies somewhat in color and can be found in red, black and brown variations. The black is much like Morado – a dark brown, usually distinctly striped wood with a straight grain. The red is much like Honduras Rosewood, with a reddish-brown cast and a figured grain, with a fine to medium texture. The sapwood is very pale – almost white. The heartwood is a mix of brilliant colors ranging from deep orange-red with black striping or mottling and streaks that ages to beautiful markings of red, black, purple, yellow and orange when exposed to air. It is very hard, heavy and dense with tight, straight interlocked grain and low luster. This oily wood is slightly pungent and fragrant when worked.

Origin:

Granadillo is found in the Pacific region of Central and South America, extending from southwestern Mexico to the Brazilian Amazon region. The trees grow best in the drier uplands and tend to be small in stature.

Comments:

Granadillo is frequently used in fine furniture and cabinetry, including decorative veneers and inlays. It is also popular for flooring, turnings, handles, musical instruments, fine accessories, jewelry, musical instruments and specialty items such as violin bows and billiard cues accents.

Hickory/Pecan

Other name: Red Hickory

Wood Description:

Hickory and pecan are virtually indistinguishable species within the walnut family of trees. The appearance of hickory/pecan sapwood is white, and quite often tinged with brown. The heartwood ranges in color from pale brown, to brown with red tinges. The heartwood occasionally takes on deeper reddish-brown tones, and is referred to as “red” hickory. Both the sapwood and heartwood are course in texture, usually with a fine, straight grain.

Origin:

Hickory/pecan is primarily an American wood, with growth concentration throughout the eastern Atlantic states, including Georgia, Tennessee, and the Carolinas in the South, continuing up through areas of southeastern Canada. Although not an abundant species, hickory is readily available.

Comments:

Hickory and pecan logs are not separated at the sawmill and are virtually indistinguishable. In recent years hickory has become more popular in kitchen cabinetry. Its variegated grain pattern has a distinctive appearance. We often source hickory from middle Tennessee and eastern Kentucky.

A popular use of hickory is as chips in smokers and barbecues to flavor meat. Its resilience and strength also make it an excellent choice for tool handles and wooden ladders. More decorative uses include furniture, paneling, flooring and cabinets.

Ipe

Other names: Ironwood, Brazilian Walnut, Cortez

Wood Description:

Ipe is an extremely dense tropical hardwood with excellent durability and performance characteristics, and strength similar to teak (two to three times harder than oak). The sapwood is yellowish-white to whitish in color, becoming light orange when dry. The heartwood is olive-brown in color, with lighter or darker streaks. The grain ranges from straight to very irregular and intercrossed in narrow bands, with a fine-to-medium texture and low luster. The figure consists of fine stripes in the radial surface, and the pores are primarily solitary and inconspicuous.

Origin:

Ipe is found throughout continental tropical America and some of the Lesser Antilles. It grows on a variety of sites, from ridge tops, to riverbanks and marsh forests throughout South American and Costa Rica.

Comments:

Ipe is often used for exterior residential and commercial applications, including as boat docks, decking, boardwalks, outdoor furniture, pool decking and park benches, particularly for projects near the ocean air. It is also used in wood flooring, where durability and high shock resistance are needed. It is also popular for fine furniture and for decorative veneers.

Iroko

Other names: Iroko Teak, African Teak

Wood Description:

Iroko is a medium-density wood with white sapwood that is sharply demarcated from the heartwood. The heartwood is golden-orange to brown in color and darkens with age. The wood can at times be colored with yellow bands of soft tissue that form a zigzag pattern on all surfaces, plus darker colored surrounding materials are usually present. The wood has a medium to moderately coarse texture with a grain that is typically interlocked or crossed.

Origin:

Iroko is found in tropical areas of East and West Africa, Angola, the Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire, Zimbabwe and the Ivory Coast.

Comments:

Iroko is often used in furniture, for factory flooring, in interior construction and for core stock. A popular substitute for teak, iroko is also used for plywood faces and may be sliced for veneer for wall paneling, flush doors, cabinetwork and decorative veneering.

Jatoba

Other name: Brazilian Cherry

Wood Description:

Jatoba varies from yellowish hues, to pink/reds, to dark reds with black striping and an interlocked grain. Quartered selections yield the most uniform look and color range. The sapwood is white, gray, or pinkish in color, and is clearly demarcated from the heartwood. It is reported to be similar to maple in appearance. Like domestic cherry, Jatoba will change dramatically over time from the yellow/tan/salmon color, when freshly milled, into a deep, rich reddish color. In direct sunlight, the color change will occur within a few days. Out of sunlight, it will oxidize slowly over six months. Water-based finishes tend to retard the color change while oil based finishes enhance it. Jatoba is a very beautiful wood with remarkable hardness that makes it an extremely popular and appealing wood.

Origin:

Jatoba is found throughout the Caribbean, in the Cape Verde Islands, throughout the West Indies, from Cuba and Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago. It is also found in central Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, French Guiana, Columbia and Surinam.

Comments:

Jatoba is prized for its pleasing color, beauty and durability. It is used in fine furniture and cabinetry, flooring, stair treads, parquet, architectural details, shipbuilding, joinery and turnery.

Kingwood

Other names: Tigerwood, Brazilian Rosewood

Wood Description:

The heartwood of kingwood ranges in color from russet brown to reddish-brown with rich mottling and wide, irregular, dark brown stripes. Once exposed, it darkens to a red or dark reddish-brown with nearly black stripes. The sapwood shows sharp demarcation and is grayish or brownish-white in color. Kingwood can have a striking figure caused by irregular dark longitudinal bands. The grain varies from straight to wavy, and the uniform wood texture ranges from fine to medium.

Origin:

Kingwood is a common tree in many regions from Mexico and Central America through tropical areas of South America, including Colombia, Venezuela, and Brazil.

Comments:

Kingwood is popular for use in high-end furniture and small decorative projects. It is especially popular among wood turners.

Lacewood

Other names: Silky Oak, Australian Silky Oak, Northern Silky Oak, Queensland Silky Oak

Wood Description:

The narrow sapwood ranges in color from almost white to pale yellow. Lacewood is pale pink to light reddish-brown in color, with a silver grain that gives the wood a silvery sheen. With age, the heartwood matures to a brownish color. Its conspicuous, large rays give it an appearance similar to oak. The wood is straight-grained with a moderately coarse to even texture.

Origin:

Lacewood is believed to be native to Queensland, Australia, specifically in the northern coastal areas. Other species also are found in India, Indonesia and Brazil.

Comments:

A decorative, highly figured wood, lacewood is popular for ornamental furniture inlays. It can be peeled or sliced to produce decorative veneers, hence its popularity for paneling and in furniture and cabinet making.

Limba, Black and White

Other names: Korina, Ofram, Limba, Akom, Fraké

Wood Description:

Limba is a close, straight-grained timber that can sometimes have interlocked or wavy grain that produces excellent figure. It has a moderately coarse texture and open pores that require filling for a smooth surface. Generally, the heartwood of limba is black and the sapwood is white. There can be variations in color from white to black, with, at times, a hint of orange streaking.

Origin:

Distributed most often from the Congo, Limba is found in the rain forests of West Africa from Guinea to Cameroon.

Comments:

Limba is usually sold separately as black or white Limba. The veneer is popular for plywood and commonly used for fine carpentry, joinery, building and flooring. The heartwood veneer is used for highly decorative furniture and paneling.

Mahogany, African

Other names: Nigerian Mahogany, Bassam Mahogany, Khaya

Wood Description:

African mahogany is pink when first cut. Over time, it darkens to a reddish-brown, with streaks of pale, golden brown. The sapwood is yellowish-brown in color, and is not always distinctly demarcated from the heartwood. The grain is usually interlocked, giving the wood a distinctive stripe or “ribbon” figure in quarter-sawn stock. The texture is even, and ranges from medium to coarse, but even with a lustrous surface.

Origin:

African mahogany grows in lower rainfall regions in tropical West, Central and East Africa from Portuguese Guinea to Angola, and from the Sudan to Mozambique.

Comments:

African mahogany is widely used in furniture making and cabinetry, as well as office and bank fittings. It is also used in boat-building and interior joinery. It is a popular wood for plywood and other veneers. Due to the recent increased cost of Honduras mahogany, African mahogany has been found to be an acceptable and more economical substitute.

Mahogany, Honduras

Other names: Brazilian Mahogany, Peruvian Mahogany, South American Mahogany

Wood Description:

The sapwood is yellowish-white to pale brown with heartwood that varies from medium to deep red-brown, and in some heavier woods, a deep, rich red. It is mostly straight-grained, and ranges from medium to coarse, with a uniform texture. Honduras mahogany occasionally is marked with ripple marks and may also display gum deposits.

Origin:

Honduras mahogany grows throughout Central and South America. Commercial supplies most often come from Central America and countries along the Atlantic coast. It is found from Belize to Panama; and in Columbia and Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, and Brazil.

Comments:

True Honduras mahogany is in short supply. Today most South American mahogany is from Peru, which is slightly inferior to mahogany from Brazil or Bolivia. Straight-grain mahogany is sometimes sold as pattern mahogany named originally for pattern makers in the steel industry.

Mahogany is a preferred wood for high-end furniture and reproductions due to its stability, wide widths and straight grain. It is also used for boat and ship interiors, paneling, pianos and caskets. Rotary-cut veneers are used in plywood, especially plywood paneling. Sliced veneers displaying decorative figures are popular for use in high-end furniture.

Mahogany, Santos

Other names: Balsamo, Cabriuva Vermelha, Cedro Chino, Chirraca, Estoraque, Incienso, Nabal, Navo, Palo de Balsamo, Quina, Sandalo, Tache, Tolu

Wood Description:

Santos mahogany ranges from light orange-brown tones to a dark reddish-brown in color. The white sapwood is sharply demarcated from the heartwood. It has a fine, even texture and tight grain that is quite often interlocked. It is an extremely dense hardwood that is a popular wood for both its durability and beauty, with a surface that can have a medium to high luster.

Origin:

Santos mahogany is found widely throughout Central and South America, from southern Mexico southward down to Argentina.

Comments:

Santos mahogany is typically found in wood flooring, turnery, interior trim, fine furniture, cabinets, entry doors, stairs and moldings.

Makore

Other name: African Cherry

Wood Description:

The heartwood ranges in color from pale pink to deep red, or red-brown. The sapwood is white to light pink, and is clearly demarcated from the heartwood. The texture is fine to medium with a lustrous surface. The grain is generally straight, but sometimes figured with an appearance similar to decorative moiré or watered silk, with streaks of darker color. It is liable to stain if it comes in contact with iron compounds in damp conditions.

Origin:

Makore is found in West Africa, from Sierra Leone to Cameroon and Gabon. It grows widely in the high rain forests.

Comments:

Makore is used in furniture making, cabinet work, turnery and high-end joinery, as well as for boat-building, flooring, and marine plywood. It has good veneering properties, and is used for decorative veneers for coach and architectural paneling. Due to the recent increased cost of Honduras mahogany, makore has been found to be a suitable and more economical substitute.

Maple, Bird's-Eye

Wood Description:

Bird's-eye maple has a characteristic pattern, much like a random series of dots, that create an image similar in appearance to a bird's eyes. Bird's-eye maple comes from the hard maple, also known as rock or sugar maple. The creamy white sapwood of the hard maple is often tinged with pink or pale reddish-brown tones. The heartwood is redder in color, varying from light to dark reddish-brown. The growth rings produce a very fine brown line throughout the wood. The grain of hard maple is tight with a fine texture, and usually straight, although several variations of "curly" or burl grain, which are most desirable, can be found in some hard maples.

Origin:

The bird's-eye maple is a cold-climate tree and grows abundantly in the northeastern United States, middle Atlantic states, and throughout the Great Lakes region, as well as in areas of eastern Canada. It is a popular and abundant American hardwood.

Comments:

Bird's-eye maple lumber is very limited and varies greatly in the frequency of bird's-eye figure.

Hard maple is a popular choice for furniture, cabinets, countertops and musical instruments. Bird's-eye maple is rotary cut when sliced as veneers to produce a continuous sheet. By using the rotary-cut method, the bird's-eye figure becomes more apparent, and is highly prized for decorative use. When specifying veneer you need to consider if the designed effect is highly figured or less figured.

Maple, Curly

Wood Description:

Curly maple occurs when the heartwood of the hard maple is highly figured. The heartwood is reddish in color, varying from light to dark reddish-brown. The growth rings produce a very fine brown line throughout the wood. The grain of hard maple is tight with a fine texture.

Origin:

See hard maple.

Comments:

Curly maple is a popular choice for furniture, cabinets, countertops and musical instruments. Curly maple is often sliced as veneers and used decoratively in furniture, custom cabinetry and for paneling.

Maple, Hard

Other names: Sugar Maple, Black Maple, Rock Maple

Wood Description:

The creamy white sapwood of the hard maple is often tinged with pink or pale reddish-brown tones. The heartwood is redder in color, varying from light to dark reddish-brown. The growth rings produce a very fine brown line throughout the wood. The grain of hard maple is tight with a fine texture, and usually straight, although several variations of “curly” or burlled grain, which are most desirable, can be found in some hard maples. The burlled wood resembles small circular or elliptical figures, that also are called “bird’s-eye,” and when more irregular in nature are called “fiddleback.”

Origin:

The hard maple is a cold-climate tree, and grows abundantly in the northeastern United States, middle Atlantic states, and throughout the Great Lakes region, as well as in areas of eastern Canada. It is a popular and abundant American hardwood.

Comments:

Hard maple is a popular choice for furniture, cabinets, countertops and musical instruments. Hard maple is used for cutting boards, bowls and other kitchenware, since it carries no taste and holds up well.

Maple, Soft

Other names: Red Maple, Silver Maple, Big Leaf Maple

Wood Description:

The sapwood of soft maple varies in color from creamy white to grayish-white, and is sometimes marked with darker colored pith flecks. Although not as rich as hard maple, the heartwood is similar in color, with reddish-brown tones ranging from light to dark. The growth rings of soft maple are not as distinct as those of hard maple. Soft maple is straight-grained, without the exceptional burlled or “bird’s-eye” characteristics that can be found in hard maple.

Origin:

The soft maple grows throughout the eastern United States, for the most part, with some species thriving in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington state), as well as areas of western Canada. Soft maple is the fastest regenerating hardwood in North America.

Comments:

We sell northern soft maple, which has a fine, white texture grain pattern and smooth finish. Appalachian and Michigan soft maple tends to be slightly tanner in color. Appalachian soft maple also has a more pronounced heartwood.

Soft maple is commonly used in furniture, kitchen cabinets, turnings, plywood veneers and decorative veneers. Its staining properties and attractive appearance make it a popular substitute for cherry. Soft maple machines very well and is good for joinery.

Maple, Quilted

Other name: Quilted Big Leaf Maple

Wood Description:

One of the world's most beautiful woods, quilt or quilted maple is a type of maple in which the growth of the wood fibers is distorted, producing a beautiful wavy figure or "quilted" look, similar to ripples on water. Trees containing quilted figure are exceedingly rare. Undulating and uninterrupted waves on the bark typically indicate a maple log with figure. A medium to hard/dense wood with a fine grain, the sapwood is a creamy white with a light brown heartwood.

Origin:

Quilted maple is found throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon, Washington State and British Columbia.

Comments:

Quilted maple is used most often in fine furniture, as veneer, for automotive dashboards and in the manufacturing of musical instruments.

Oak, English

Other names: European Oak, White Oak, English Brown Oak

Wood Description:

The heartwood is a pale yellow-brown or "biscuit" color, that may range to light tan or deep brown in color. It is usually straight grained, but cross-grained material can occur in slow growing trees. English oak displays conspicuous growth rings and has a coarse texture. The sapwood is easily distinguished from the heartwood, though similar in color. Like many other oaks, broad rays, distinctive growth rings and a silvery grain produce an attractive figure when quarter-sawn. English "brown" oak took on its color from the beef-steak fungus. The color cannot be reproduced with stains, and is considered highly desirable.

Origin:

This species occurs primarily in Great Britain, France, Poland and other areas of Europe.

Comments:

English oak is used in furniture, joinery and flooring. Its resistance to the passage of liquids makes it an ideal material for whiskey, cognac and sherry casks. English oak stained by the beef-steak fungus, often called brown oak, is extremely desirable and is converted into decorative veneers for use in furniture and paneling.

Oak, Red

Wood Description:

Red oak sapwood ranges from white to light brown in color. Most varieties of red oak heartwood will have golden, reddish tones, although some display deeper, reddish-brown tones. The wood has a coarse texture with a straight grain and shorter rays than white oak.

Origin:

Red oak grows throughout the eastern United States up through areas of eastern Canada. Oaks are the most abundant American hardwood species, with red oak more prevalent than white oak.

Comments:

We specialize in Appalachian red oak. Premium red oak timber can be found in West Virginia, western North Carolina, and eastern Kentucky. We have 50 years of drying experience and are highly selective in sourcing premium Appalachian stock. At various locations we also stock southern and northern red oak, depending on application and color requirements.

Red oak is a popular wood for furniture, and is also used widely in cabinetry, flooring, architectural millwork, mouldings, paneling and caskets.

Oak, White

Wood Description:

The sapwood of white oak is light in color and can range from a pale yellow-brown to a grayish-white. The heartwood may be either light brown in color, or a darker brown with deep, golden tones. The distinctive coarse texture and straight grain has longer rays than red oak. Fast-growing oaks, such as those grown in the South, produce wider, more prominent growth rings.

Origin:

White oak grows abundantly throughout the eastern United States, from the South, up through the Appalachian area, northward into areas of southeastern Canada. Oak is the most widely available American hardwood, with white oak second to red oak in abundance.

Comments:

Historically, higher grade white oak lumber often is exported to Europe or Asia. American fashion tastes tends to lean toward red oak, although premium white oak is more uniform in color. White oak is often found in high-end architectural projects.

White oak is a popular selection for flooring, stair parts, architectural millwork, pulpits and pews, furniture and cabinetry. Its water-resistant characteristics have made it a preferred choice for ship timbers, barrels and casks. White oak is also widely used for paneling and decorative veneers.

Obeche

Other names: Wawa, Arere, Ayous, Samba

Wood Description:

Obeche is creamy-white to pale straw color with no demarcation between the sapwood and heartwood. It is a light wood with a moderately fine and even texture. In large logs, wood from the center of the log is inclined to be brittle (brittleheart). The grain is usually interlocked, which provides a faint stripe on quarter-sawn wood.

Origin:

Obeche grows throughout West and Central Africa in a zone from Guinea east to the Central African Republic, and south to Gabon and the Congo.

Comments:

Obeche is often rotary cut into constructional veneer for plywood core stock purposes and as a backing veneer. It is used extensively where durability and strength are unimportant, in applications such as drawer slides, interior rails and cabinet framing. Some logs are sliced for decorative veneer.

Padauk (African)

Other names: Camwood, Barwood

Wood Description:

African padauk has a vividly colored heartwood, that when freshly cut, appears deep red. After exposure, it turns to a deep purple-brown with red streaks. The distinct sapwood ranges in color from white to yellowish-brown. It has a lustrous surface and moderately coarse texture. The grain can be straight or interlocked.

Origin:

Padouk is found in central and tropical West Africa, extending from southwestern Nigeria to Zaire.

Comments:

Padauk is used in high-end joinery, furniture and cabinet making. It also is used for fine turnery, including decorative tool and knife handles. It can be sliced and peeled for decorative veneers.

Heart Pine

Other names: Longleaf Pine, Pitch Pine, American Heart Pine

Wood Description:

The reclaimed timbers referred to as heart pine have a color and beauty unique to its age. The wood presents a dense, straight grain and exuberant color ranging from light honey to dark reddish-brown, with a rich patina acquired with age. Heart pine, in its original state, came from old-growth longleaf pines as much as 170' tall that took 150 to 400 years to mature. These extremely large pines provided for the production of boards, beams and ship hulls of great width and girth from single trees.

Origin:

The original growth region for heart pine was from Virginia to central Florida, and westward along the Gulf Coast, as far west as Texas. Today, reclaimed timbers are gathered from around the country from old buildings and warehouses.

Comments:

Since no standard grading rules exists, buyer beware. Sometimes new Caribbean pine is sold as heart pine. Today southern pine found in the U.S. is genetically improved to be fast growing, thus true heart pine is no longer found in commercial forests.

The durability of heart pine, combined with its beauty, has made it a popular choice for architectural cabinetry, flooring, paneling and wainscoting. It also is used for stair parts and custom millwork. Quality varies greatly, so check with your representative for samples.

Poplar

Other names: Yellow Poplar, Tulip Poplar.

Wood Description:

Poplar sapwood ranges in color from creamy white, to grayish-white, to white with a yellowish cast, and is sometimes striped. The heartwood, which is usually tan, also presents a wide variety of tones, sometimes with a slightly greenish cast, and occasionally with dark purplish streaks. Poplar offers a uniform, fine texture and is light to medium in weight with a straight grain.

Origin:

Poplar grows throughout the East from southern New England to the Gulf of Mexico and represents about 20 percent of the timber volume and lumber production in the region.

Comments:

Poplar is the number one species we offer. Specializing in Appalachian lumber, we ship poplar worldwide and stock all thicknesses and grades. Poplar gained wide usage for furniture framing and drawers in the early part of the twentieth century. Today, it often is used for mouldings and millwork, boxes, pallets and shipping crates. Poplar also is used in plywood veneers and core stock. Due to its competitive pricing, poplar often is used in paint-grade applications.

Purpleheart

Other names: Violetwood, Ameranth

Wood Description:

The heartwood is a dull brown when freshly cut, becoming deep purple on exposure. After extended exposure, the wood deepens in color to a rich brownish-red. The off-white sapwood is sharply demarcated from the heartwood. The texture ranges from medium to fine with a medium to high surface luster. The grain may be straight, but is sometimes interlocked and wavy or irregular.

Origin:

Most purpleheart comes from the Guianas and from the Amazon region of Brazil. Other species are found throughout Mexico and Central America.

Comments:

Purpleheart is popular for turnery, high-end furniture making, and decorative inlay and veneer. It is very dense and has a high blunting effect on cutting blades.

Red Grandis (Eucalyptus)

Other names: Red Grandis, Flooded Gum, Rose Gum, Scrub Gum, Grandis Gum, Saligna Gum, Sydney Blue Gum, Kalitunsi

Wood Description:

Eucalyptus is a fast-growing, sustainable hardwood comparable to teak or cherry in strength and durability and is a viable alternative to mahogany and other tropical hardwoods. The sapwood is light brown, while the heartwood ranges from pale pinkish to reddish-brown. Eucalyptus is uniform in color and texture with a dense, straight, interlocked grain. Its smooth finish and honey color make it an excellent choice for flooring and outdoor furniture.

Origin:

Eucalyptus is native to Australia, but also grows throughout tropical South America in areas including Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile.

Comments:

The smooth finish and honey color of eucalyptus make it an excellent choice for flooring and outdoor furniture.

Red Gum

Other names: American Red Gum, Sweet Gum, Satin Walnut

Wood Description:

Red gum sapwood is a light creamy-white color, sometimes with pink tinges. It sharply contrasts with the heartwood, which can have irregular darker streaks that can range in color from pinkish-brown to reddish-brown with darker streaks, and sometimes has a grayish hue. The grain is often irregular with a fine texture.

Origin:

Red gum is found throughout the central and southern United States, from the Ohio River Valley south to the Gulf of Mexico. It grows best on river flood plains from Louisiana through Alabama, but can also be found along the East Coast as far north as Connecticut.

Comments:

Red gum is a popular choice for crates, pallets, furniture, cabinets, interior trim and interior woodwork. It is also used in plywood, and, because of its strong contrast in color from sapwood to hardwood, is also popular as veneer.

Rosewood, Honduras

Other name: Nogaed

Wood Description:

Heartwood varies from brown to deep purple varying from light to dark in color. Sapwood is a contrasting light or cream blonde color.

Origin:

Honduras rosewood is found mainly in Belize (British Honduras) and grows in river areas throughout Central America.

Working Properties:

Since Honduras rosewood is very hard, it is moderately difficult to saw and machine, and creates a blunting effect on tools. Pre-boring is necessary for nailing. Since the wood is sometimes very oily, it can be difficult to produce a good, even finish.

Comments:

Since Honduras rosewood turns well, it is used often for knife handles and piano legs. Other uses include percussion bars of xylophones, and fingerboards for banjos, guitars and mandolins. It is also used in fine furniture and cabinets, with highly figured logs sliced for decorative veneers and inlay work.

Sapele

Other names: Mogano Sapeli, Aboudikrou

Origin:

Sapele is found in lower tropical rain forests and tropical semi-evergreen rain forests throughout Africa, including West Africa, Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, the Congo, Zaire and Angola.

Wood Description:

The pink to dark red heartwood of sapele darkens quickly to a red-brown. Some heartwoods take on reddish tones similar to mahogany and deepen over time to a dark reddish-brown with warm overtones. Sapele is sometimes marked by a much-desired ribbon figure on quartered surfaces

Comments:

Sapele is used widely for cabinetry, architectural mouldings and furniture making. Due to the recent increased cost of Honduras mahogany, sapele has been found to be a suitable and more economical substitute. The pommele figuring of sapele is often uniform in logs for up to 12 feet, producing spectacular veneer for furniture, paneling, parquet flooring and doors. Sapele is also used in marquetry.

Shedua

Other names: Olive Walnut, Amazakoue, Ovangkol, Mosambique

Wood Description:

Shedua sapwood is very pale with clear demarcations. A variety of colors can be found in the heartwood that includes pink, vivid red, or red-brown with purple veining. On exposure, the veining becomes less conspicuous, and the deep colors fade to yellow or medium brown with a reddish tint. Shedua has a fine, even texture with a straight or interlocked grain. Shedua from the Gabon area often has a wavy grain, and is sometimes highly figured, producing a decorative appearance when flat- and quarter-sawn.

Origin:

Shedua grows in Equatorial Africa, from Cameroon and Gabon to southeast Nigeria, to the Congo region, and to some extent, in Zaire.

Comments:

Shedua is often used for knife and brush handles. The most popular use of shedua is as veneers, especially the highly figured logs. Decorative veneers are used on furniture and cabinets and for paneling. The figured veneers are especially desirable for furniture inlays.

Sipo

Other names: Kalungi, Liboyo, Mufumbi, Okeong, Utile

Wood Description:

An African hardwood which resembles sapele in appearance the sipo sapwood is light brown in color. The heartwood is pinkish-brown when first cut, and darkens to a rich red or purple-brown with exposure. The sapwood is reported to be up to 2 inches (0.50 cm) wide and clearly demarcated from the heartwood. The attractive grain is usually broadly interlocked, producing a ribbon figure or a wide, often irregular stripe on quarter-sawn surfaces.

Origin:

Sipo grows in the high forests of tropical west and east Africa, specifically in Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Liberia, Gabon, Uganda, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Zaire, Angola, the Ivory Coast and Ghana.

Comments:

Sipo is often used as a substitute for mahogany and is commonly used in furniture, cabinets, joinery, paneling and stair parts. It is a popular material for decorative plywood and decorative veneer.

Sycamore, English or European

Other names: European Sycamore, Harewood, Sycamore Plane, Sycamore, Great Maple, Sycamore Maple

Wood Description:

The sapwood of English sycamore is a light-colored creamy white which varies to light yellowish in color. The heartwood ranges in color from light to dark brown. While most often straight-grained, the figured logs of this exotic hardwood are highly valued. With a consistent fine, silky texture, English sycamore is considered the finest light-colored wood in the world.

Origin:

English sycamore is a species of maple native to central Europe and southwestern Asia. It is found throughout central Europe, including England, France, Poland, northern Spain, northern Turkey and parts of Caucasus.

Comments:

An excellent tone wood, English sycamore is used to make violins, cellos, basses, and violas. It is also used in fine furniture, cabinets, architectural millwork and flooring, and is an extremely desirable wood for veneer.

Teak, Genuine

Wood Description:

Most teak is a rich, golden brown in color, but also may vary from rich brown to a deep, chocolate brown with dark, almost black, markings. The grain may be either straight or wavy, with conspicuous growth rings. It has a coarse texture and oily feel, as well as a leather-like odor.

Origin:

Teak grows in Burma, Thailand and India. India provides the largest commercial resource. It also has been planted in other areas around the world, including East and West Africa and the Caribbean.

Comments:

Teak most often is used in ship building and decking. Since it is acid resistant, it is used in laboratories as bench tops and chemical vats. It is also used in furniture and cabinet making and in garden furniture.

Tulipwood

Other names: Brazilian Tulipwood, Pinkwood

Wood Description:

The sapwood of tulipwood ranges in color from creamy to solid yellow. The vivid heartwood is straw-colored to pink-yellow, marked with irregular streaks of yellow, rose, pink and violet. The colors fade after extended exposure. The wood is lustrous, and has a rather fine texture with a grain that can be straight or, more often, irregular.

Origin:

Tulipwood is native to tropical South America, especially northeastern Brazil, and also can be found in Colombia, Guyana and Venezuela.

Comments:

Tulipwood most often is used decoratively as veneers for inlay and marquetry. It is also very popular among wood turners.

Walnut

Other names: Black Walnut, Nogal

Wood Description:

Walnut sapwood is very creamy white in color, while the heartwood, which ranges in color from light to a rich, dark brown, and matures to an almost purplish-black hue. Walnut often carries characteristically dark brown or purplish streaks. Walnut has a coarse, yet uniform texture, and while usually straight-grained, it is sometimes wavy or curly. This species produces a large variety of figure types.

Origin:

The walnut tree grows widely throughout North America along areas of the East Coast from Florida to Maine, including Georgia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and New York, and in the mid-section of the country, including areas of eastern Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska and southern Minnesota and South Dakota.

Comments:

In order to minimize the color contrast of sapwood, walnut is often steamed at the mill. NHLA rules for walnut are substantially different than standard NHLA rules and allow for smaller cuttings.

Walnut is a popular wood for high-end furniture and cabinets, especially in combination with lighter woods to produce decorative effects. In the United States, it is the standard wood for rifle butts and gun stocks. Walnut is often used in furniture veneers.

Walnut, Peruvian

Other names: South American Walnut, Nogal

Wood Description:

Peruvian walnut presents a rich, dark brown heartwood with a blackish stripe that creates a desirable figure. It has a rather coarse texture, and while usually straight-grained, it is sometimes wavy or curly.

Origin:

The Peruvian walnut tree grows throughout South America, including Peru, Columbia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Argentina. It also grows in areas of Mexico.

Comments:

Peruvian walnut is a popular wood for high-end furniture and cabinets, especially in combination with lighter woods to produce decorative effects. In the United States, it is the standard wood for rifle butts and gun stocks. Figured woods are sliced for veneers for paneling, cabinets and marquetry.

Wenge

Wood Description:

Wenge sapwood is pale white to yellow in color, and clearly demarcated from the heartwood. The heartwood is dark, dark brown, bordering on black. Alternating layers of light and dark wood and white bands marked with black veins create a decorative figure. The dark heartwood is highly coveted. The texture is somewhat coarse with a fairly straight grain.

Origin:

Wenge occurs naturally in the forests of Zaire, Gabon and the Cameroon Republic, as well as the southern regions of Tanzania, and Mozambique. It is also found in the Congo.

Comments:

Wenge often is used in flooring and general construction work. When sliced as decorative veneers, it is used for paneling, cabinets and marquetry.

Yellowheart

Other names: Yellow Wood, West Indian Satinwood

Wood Description:

The sapwood of yellowheart ranges from creamy white to light yellow, and is not clearly differentiated from the heartwood. The heartwood is creamy to golden yellow and darkens with exposure to a light golden orange/tan color. It has a fine, even texture with high luster and interlocked or irregular grain with a roey, mottled figure.

Origin:

Yellowheart is a tropical wood commonly found in the Caribbean Islands of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. It also occurs in the lower Florida Keys, Bermuda, the Bahamas and Brazil.

Comments:

Yellowheart is used only in small quantities, and usually as decorative veneers for inlay and marquetry in fine furniture and cabinetry.

Zebrawood

Other names: African Zebrawood, Zebrano

Wood Description:

Zebrawood is known for its highly figured heartwood. The heartwood is straw-like in color and distinctively marked with narrow veining or “streaks” of color ranging from dark brown to almost black. These streaks give the heartwood a zebra-stripe appearance. The sapwood is whitish in color, and virtually without feature. The wavy, interlocked grain produces a ribbon figure. The texture ranges from medium to coarse and has a high luster surface.

Origin:

Zebrawood is a tropical African hardwood that grows in Gabon, the Cameroon Republic, and the Congo.

Comments:

The decorative nature of this highly figured wood makes it a popular wood for high-quality veneers. Quarter-sliced veneers are used for furniture inlays, cross banding and marquetry. It also is used to produce decorative millwork.

GLOSSARY

Air-drying

Drying by exposure to air; usually the first stage of the drying process, before lumber is placed in a dry kiln.

American-Style Cabinet

See Face Frame Cabinet

Backed Veneer

Veneer that is pre-assembled with a backing or substrate, such as a special paper, laminate, backing veneer or other material. Backers make the veneer easier to handle.

Back

The side of a plywood panel that is of poorer quality. This usually refers to plywood panels, which have a face of one grade (higher quality) and a back of a lower grade.

Balanced Construction

Panel (or ply) placement, especially in plywood, where veneers are glued together such that the grain direction in adjacent plies are at right angles to one another, reducing the tendency to shrink and swell with moisture. Plies may consist of a single veneer, particleboard, medium-density fiberboard, or hardboard.

Balanced Match

Two or more veneer components or leaves of equal size matched up to create a single face.

Bark Pocket

A blemish in wood caused by an opening between annual growth rings that contains bark and appears as a dark streak or streaks in the wood or lumber.

Bird's Eye

Characterized by small knots appearing as circles or ovals unevenly scattered throughout the wood. The appearance resembles the shape of a bird's-eye. This type of figure is found almost exclusively in hard maple (sugar maple) and is highlighted when rotary cut.

Block Mottle Figure

An irregular form of cross figuring that runs over the complete surface of the veneer. Broad cross markings, broken by variations in strip, produce a block or patchy effect, known as block mottle.

Block Tally

A unit tally done by estimating the average width of lumber per coarse, multiplied by the number of courses, then multiplied by the average length of the lumber in the unit (with the length rounded down to the nearest whole foot).

Book

The most commonly used term for a bundle of veneer, especially by carpenters. This term comes from the veneer leaves following one after the other like pages in a book.

Book Match

A book match is the most popular veneer matching method. In book matching, every other piece of veneer from a flitch is turned over so that adjacent leaves are "opened" like the pages of a book. This creates a face with matching occurring at the spliced joints and results in a repeating, symmetrical grain pattern.

Board-foot/Board-feet/bd-ft

An abbreviation for the unit of measure "board foot" or feet. Each unit is equivalent to a board one foot long by one inch thick by 12 inches wide (144 cubic inches). All measurements are nominal.

Burl (or Burr) Veneer

Veneer obtained from rare woody outgrowths appearing on trees around grafts or injuries. This produces an appearance of a close arrangement of many small eyes or knots intermingled with distorted grain. The rare and unusual patterns of burls make them in high demand and are also more expensive, due to the small size of the veneer and scarcity. Differentiation is generally made between burl or burr growth above ground (elm, ash, oak) and root burl or burr growth that develops below ground in the root (Californian walnut, madrona, vavone, myrtle).

Butt- or End-Match

Butt- or end-matching refers to a technique where the veneer is joined end-to-end and side-to-side. This technique is often used to extend the appearance length of available veneers for wall panels and long conference tables. Leaves are individually book- or slip-matched, first end-to-end and then side-to-side, alternating end and side. It is also a popular method for matching burls, crotches, and highly decorative veneers.

Cant

A large sawn section that is cut from the center of a log and squared on two or more sides. Lumber or veneers are then cut from the “cant.”

Cathedral

A much sought-after structure in crown-cut bundles, cathedral patterns are considered to be very elegant. The grain appearance is characterized by a series of stacked or inverted “Vs” forming an arch-like cathedral pattern.

Center Match

Each face has an even number of veneer sheets, but the widths are not necessarily the same. The center joint will be in the middle of the panel.

Chatter

A wavy condition across the width of a panel caused by sanding. These markings are parallel to one another, between 1 / 4” and 1 / 2” apart, and perpendicular to the sander grit markings. Sometimes they can be felt but always can be seen.

Comb Grain

A quality of rift cut veneer with exceptionally straight grain and closely spaced growth increments.

Composite Veneer

Natural wood that has been re-constituted. The wood used in composite veneers is harvested from fast-growing trees. The logs are cut (sliced to veneer), dyed and then re-glued in different molds to create the “grain” pattern. The way in which the composite veneers are re-glued and re-sliced determines the grain and figures.

Concealed Hinge

Hinges designed to function behind the door or panel so that all parts are hidden within the cabinet, producing clean lines and a professional appearance.

Concentration Yard

A large lumber storage and loading facility maintained by a wholesale business that buys and sells green and kiln-dried lumber. The yard usually operates dry kilns and offers similar services as a sawmill, but does not saw lumber.

Core

Also referred to as “center” or “substrate.” The innermost portion of plywood composed of veneer, fiberboard, particleboard, or a combination of the above.

Crook

A lumber defect affecting the straightness of the board when viewed end-to-end along the edge, or narrow face.

Crossfire

This term is used to describe all of the various figure marks running perpendicular to the veneer grain. In some wood species the crossfire is a contrast of color, while others appear as an irregularity of the grain creating the illusion of horizontal marks

Cross Grain

Cross grain may be either a diagonal or spiral grain, or a combination of the two either as a result of sawing, or as a result of inconsistent grain direction during growth. When occurring naturally, this can result in wood with interesting figure that is hard to work and finish.

Crotch

This type of figure occurs where limbs emerge from the tree trunk. The high amounts of fiber distortion at this junction results in a feather or flame pattern appearance. Mahogany is the most common specie with this type of figuring.

Cup

A lumber defect referring to a “cup” or “concave” deviation (dip) from a straight line drawn edge-to-edge across the face of a board. (Opposite of crowning.)

Cup Distance

Distance from the edge of the cabinet door to the edge of the hinge cup hole.

Curl

See Crotch

Curly

The term used for a wavy or curly figuring produced by distorted fiber growth that reflects light differently, creating varied tones of color within the wood grain. Most commonly found in walnut and maple veneers.

Deciduous

Deciduous trees are those usually having broad leaves that are lost each year in the fall. Most deciduous trees are hardwoods.

Deflection

Downward bending of a board between supports when a load is applied, such as a shelf or floor panel. Deflection is usually measured in inches and is greater in the center of the span than on the outer edges.

Density

The weight of a panel as measured in pounds per cubic foot.

Delaminating

The separation of the panel's face layer from the core, or a laminate from a substrate, or separation of the inner plies, usually from failure of the adhesive bond.

Diamond Match (Box Match)

Four equal pieces of veneer are cut diagonally to the usually straight grain. These are matched to create a diamond pattern. In a reverse diamond match, the pieces are matched so that the grain direction runs toward the middle.

Distribution Yard

A large storage and shipment yard stocking lumber and other building materials.

Door Length

Log and veneer lengths between 6'8" and 8' required by the door industry.

Dry Kiln

A chamber in which lumber is dried, most commonly by controlling humidity, temperature, and air circulation.

Dye

A process whereby color is infused into veneers either in a vat or with high pressure.

Edgebanding

Strips of veneer joined continuously head-on to be applied onto the sides of a substrate as trim or a finishing method.

End-Matched (Butt-Matched)

Often called butt-matched, the veneers are matched as described for book-matched veneers. Butt- or end-matching refers to a technique where the veneer is joined end-to-end and side-to-side. This is sometimes used when the veneer is not long enough to cover the desired panel height. It is also a popular method for burls, crotches, and highly decorative veneers. Quite often, veneers are both book-matched and end-matched, which is called a four-way match.

End Splits

Separations of wood fiber completely through the thickness, at the end of a board.

Equilibrium Moisture Content

The moisture content at which lumber stabilizes when left in an environment for a length of time. It is the level at which the moisture in a board is equal to the moisture in the surrounding air.

Equalizing

One of the final stages in the kiln-drying process, designed to bring all the boards in a kiln charge to the same moisture content.

European-Style Cabinet

See Frameless Cabinet

Face

The better side of any panel where the outer plies are of different veneer grades. Also, either side of a panel in which there is no difference in veneer grades.

Face-Frame Cabinet

A cabinet design where the exposed edges of the panels are covered with standard 1" x 2" solid wood facing, also known as face frame. Often referred to as American-style cabinets.

Fiddleback

A term describing a consistent ripple figure running across the grain. Fiddleback is not commonly found, but occasionally occurs in mahogany, maple, English sycamore and anegre. The term fiddleback comes from the veneer's popularity in making violin backs.

Figure

The pattern produced in a wood surface by annual growth rings, rays, knots and deviations from natural grains, such as interlocked and wavy grain, and irregular coloration.

Flake (Fleck)

The typical figuring of wood when the pithrays are cut across, i.e. at an angle of 180 degrees when slicing. This is strongly pronounced, particularly in oak. They are generally considered as inferior veneers, unless from brown oak, silky oak or plane, for example, where this figuring is in special demand.

Flat Cut

This is the cutting/slicing method most often used to produce veneers for high quality architectural woodworking. Cutting is done parallel to a line through the center of the log. A combination of cathedral and straight grain patterns result, with a natural progression of patterns from leaf to leaf.

Flich

A thick section of a log, usually from the outside, higher-value portion of the log, cut on at least two sides. A flich is usually intended for further remanufacturing into veneer, millwork, or cabinetry.

Foils

Cellulose papers weighing between 40 and 140 grams per square meter, untreated. The papers may be impregnated with melamine, thermoplastic resins, or left untreated.

Four-Piece Match

Special method used for burl veneers to produce highly decorative surfaces and patterns. Four veneer leaves in succession are turned twice and folded up once.

Frameless Cabinet

A cabinet design where the exposed edges of the panels are not covered by a face frame. Often referred to as European-style cabinets.

FSC

FSC is the acronym for the Forest Stewardship Council. The purpose of the council is to coordinate the development of responsible forest management standards throughout the world and to provide public information about certification and FSC. The FSC standards represent the world's strongest system for guiding forest management toward sustainable outcomes. Products bearing the FSC logo, which guarantees that the wood has been harvested from a certified well-managed forest, are available across the world from a variety of mills, manufacturers, and distributors, including Hardwoods, Incorporated.

Gang Rip

A manufacturing term meaning to cut a piece of lumber into numerous smaller pieces, in just one pass through a multiple-blade saw.

Grain

The size, alignment, quality and color of wood fibers in a piece of lumber (not clearly defined within the industry). Usually, it refers to the direction of wood fiber growth, as in: straight grain, spiral grain, or cross grain.

Green Lumber

Freshly cut lumber that has been recently sawn and has not had time to dry, with a moisture content in excess of 30%.

Gross- (or Green-) Measured Tally

A term for lumber measured (for volume) before being kiln dried.

Gum Streaks

A term for a lumber defect characterized by a concentration of gum in the wood fibers. These streaks usually result from some injury to the sapwood, such as a bird peck.

Half-Round Cut

A combination of rotary and plain cut. Segments, or flitches, of a log are mounted off center on the lathe resulting in a cut slightly across the annular growth rings. This produces figures characteristic of both rotary- and plain-sliced veneers. This is used primarily to accentuate the grain in various woods such as in burls, or Bird's-Eye maple, or to gain a wider width on a cathedral on small dimension logs.

Hardwood Plywood

Composed mostly of inner plies peeled from fir, poplar, lauan or other species of either soft or hardwood, only the face and back panels are pure hardwood veneers of 1/30th to 1/40th or less of an inch thick.

Heart

The term used for the core wood area in veneer, which is different in color from the remaining part of the veneer leaf.

Heartwood

The center portion of a tree consisting of mature wood that has stopped growing. It is between the center (pith) and the sapwood. Heartwood is generally harder and darker than the sapwood or the growing outer portion of the tree.

Hit-or-Miss

Lumber that has been surfaced (hit) but still contains areas of skip (miss). The areas of skip dressing are those parts of the board too thin to surface at the hit-or-miss thickness.

Hole-Line Drilling System

A system that precisely bores multiple holes simultaneously using a machine with boring bits of the same diameter arranged in a straight line. It's often used for cabinets with adjustable shelves or mass-produced cabinet systems.

Honeycomb

A drying defect characterized by boards that appear fine on the outside but that internally, contain serious voids caused by grain separation. This is a result of lumber that is dried too rapidly.

HPL

High-pressure laminate. A sheet material formed from multiple layers of kraft paper saturated with phenolic resin, a decorative layer of paper saturated with melamine resin, and a very thin top sheet of paper heavily saturated with a melamine resin, then fused together in the hot press under high temperature and pressure to produce a stiff plastic sheet.

Inset

A method of installing cabinet doors so that they are installed flush across the face of the cabinet.

Kerf

A slot made by a saw blade. Kerf also refers to the width of the saw cut.

Kiln-Dried

Describes lumber that has been dried in a kiln with artificial heat, usually to a moisture content of 6-8%.

Knot

A marking or blemish left in wood from the place where a branch has grown out of the heartwood.

Laminate

See HPL and LPL.

Leaf

A sliced layer of a veneer flitch that when joined with other leaves of veneer forms a veneer sheet.

LEED

Developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, the acronym LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. It is the nationally accepted certification program for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. For in-depth details, go to www.usgbc.org.

Live Sample

Single sheets of veneer pulled out of a log to represent the whole log. (Our live samples are sent for selection, and those not chosen must be returned or a re-sampling charge is assessed.)

Loose Side

In knife-cut veneer, that side of the sheet that was in contact with the knife as the veneer was being cut. The loose side contains cutting checks (lathe checks) where the knife's edge and the wood made contact.

LPL

Low-pressure laminate. A preprinted or solid-color decorative paper that has been saturated with a resin. Under heat and pressure, it bonds to a board surface without need for additional adhesive.

Matching

Joining veneers in a sequence according to their natural sequential order or to obtain specific dimensions and a pattern desired.

MDF

An acronym for medium-density fiberboard, MDF is an engineered wood product formed by breaking down softwood into wood fibers and combining the fibers with waxes or resins. The panels are formed by applying high temperatures and pressure. MDF is denser than particleboard and is most often used as a substrate or in applications similar to plywood. It is economically priced and easily machined.

Melamine

A laminate that derives its name from the melamine resin system used to saturate the paper laminate and adhere it to the substrate.

Millwork

A term for lumber that has been specially manufactured by a plant or mill. It is planed and/or run to a pattern, and refers to items such as moulding and trim, doors and windows and their frames, staircases, cabinets, and other specialty items.

Modulus of Elasticity (MOE)

A measure of a board's resistance to deflection or sagging when loaded as a simple beam, value-stated in pounds per square inch (psi).

Modulus of Rupture (MOR)

An index of the maximum breaking strength of a board when loaded as a simple beam, value-stated in pounds per square inch (psi).

Moisture Content (M.C.)

The amount of water in wood expressed, as a percentage of dry weight.

Mottle

Mottle is the intermingling of broken cross markings with stripe figure. Block mottle involves broad cross markings, producing a patch effect that is commonly found in makore. Bee's wing mottle is a very small, fine figure and often occurs in sapele, satinwood and black bean.

Moulding

Carved, shaped or "milled" ornamental strip used to decorate a surface, often used to accent or emphasize the ornamentation of a structure and to conceal surface or angle joints; a decorative element that contours or outlines the edges and surfaces on a projection or cavity, such as a cornice, architrave, capital, arch, base, or jamb.

Net-Measured Tally

The weight of the water in wood, expressed as a percentage of the weight of kiln-dried lumber.

Overlay

Overlay refers to the amount (the measurement) that a cabinet door covers the panel edge or face frame of a cabinet.

Paint Grade

A non-rules book grade with all the attributes of "standard" grades. This wood grade refers to wood products suitable for painting that would not appear attractive if stained because of minor defects that would be highlighted by stain.

Paneling

In architecture and design, paneling refers to a decorative treatment of walls, ceilings, doors, and furniture consisting of a series of wide, thin sheets of wood, called panels, which may be framed together by narrower, thicker strips of wood.

Peanut Shell

A quilted or blistered figure that incorporates a dominant grain or yearring pattern. Mostly found in tamo or bubinga.

Phenolic

A phenolic sheet is a hard, dense material made by applying heat and pressure to layers of paper, glass or cotton impregnated with synthetic thermosetting resins. When heat and pressure are applied to the layers, a chemical reaction (polymerization) transforms the layers into a high-pressure industrial laminated plastic.

Pin Knot

According to the rules book, a knot not exceeding 1/8" in average diameter.

Plain Slicing

See Flat Cut.

Plain Sawn

A sawmill term for lumber sawn approximately perpendicular to the radius of the log. It produces lumber called "flat grain" lumber.

Planer

A piece of sawmill equipment that planes (surfaces) rough lumber, leaving it smooth and uniform in size.

Plywood

Any combination of veneers, lumber, core, paper or other material joined together with adhesive to create a single panel. Plywood can be of any thickness. Standards are 1/8", 1/4", 1/2", 3/4", or 1". Hardwood plywood usually has a hardwood face, core and back.

Pommele

Pommele gets its name from the French word for "apple." The figure resembles small round or oval circles that can overlap each other. Sometimes a log that has larger and more sparsely occurring "apples" can be referred to as blistered.

Proprietary Grade

The term for a grade that is pulled by a lumber manufacturer, but which is not defined in the NHLA Rules book.

Quarter Cut

Quarter cutting/slicing simulates the quarter sawing process of solid lumber, roughly parallel to the radius line through the log segment. As a result, in many species, the individual leaves are narrow. A series of stripes is produced, varying in density and thickness from species to species. "Flake" is a characteristic of this slicing method in red and white oak.

Quarter Sawn

A sawmill term for lumber sawn approximately on the radius of a log with the average inclination not less than 45 degrees. Produces vertical grain, or edge-grain, lumber.

Quilted

This figuring is produced by rotary- or half-round slicing of logs that have a "bumpy" surface. The uneven weaving of the growth rings produces a quilted, three-dimensional effect. Maple and mahogany are species often available with quilted figure.

Random Match

Mismatched leaves are placed next to each other deliberately to give a rustic, natural look. This works especially well with knotty or wormy species.

Ray Flake

See Flake.

Repairs

A patch, shim or filler material inserted and/or glued into veneer or a panel to achieve a sound surface.

Reveal

Measurement of the distance between the back edge of the cabinet door and the side of the cabinet in an inset installation.

Ribbon Stripe

In some woods, principally mahogany, a pattern of wide, unbroken stripes can be obtained. It is produced by cutting on the quarter a log that shows growth rings.

Rift Cut

Rift veneers are produced most often in red and white oak, rarely in other species. Note that rift veneers and rift-sawn solid lumber are produced so differently that a “match” between rift veneers and rift-sawn lumber is highly unlikely. In both cases, the cutting is done slightly off the radius lines, minimizing the “flake” associated with quarter slicing.

Root Burl

See Burl/Burr Veneer.

Rotary Cut

The log is center-mounted on a lathe and “peeled” along the general path of the growth rings, like unwinding a roll of paper, providing a generally bold, random appearance. Rotary cut veneers may vary in width, and matching at veneer joints is extremely difficult. Almost all softwood veneers are cut this way. Except for creating a specific design effect, rotary veneers are the least useful in fine architectural woodwork. Rotary-sliced fine hardwood veneers are used in a limited way, usually for special figure and cut. Careful consideration, specification, and communication are recommended when rotary cut is contemplated.

S2S

Surfaced two sides.

S4S

Surfaced four sides.

Sand-Through

A condition where the face layer has been sanded off, exposing the core. These areas will appear to be darker than other areas of the face. In areas where the face layer has been sanded off, larger particles are exposed.

Sap Stain

Also called blue stain, it is created by a fungus that discolors the sapwood of green lumber as it grows during warm weather.

Sapwood

The wood near the outside of the tree between the heartwood and the bark, which is usually lighter in color than other parts of the log.

Saturated Papers

Decorative surface papers generally weighing between 60 and 130 grams per square meter. These papers are saturated with melamine or polyester resins and partially cured at the point of manufacture. Final curing is done at the time of hot-press lamination.

Seasoning Checks

Also called surfacing checks, these are (usually) small separations along the grain on the face of a board, caused by a variation in shrinkage as the shell dries and shrinks faster than the interior wood.

Shrinkage Factor

A term used to describe the loss in footage as lumber shrinks in size, going from green to kiln-dried. For most hardwood lumber, this factor is about 7%.

Slip-Matched

Veneer components are laid side by side (slipped out in sequence) to form a whole sheet of veneer with a repetitive grain appearance.

Sound Knot

A solid knot that is as hard as the surrounding wood showing no looseness or indication of decay.

Spliced Veneers

Spliced veneers are composed of several pieces of veneer varying in width that are glued together to form a whole sheet. The way they are laid out during composing determines the final look of the veneer.

Straight-Line Ripping (SLR)

The process of edging a board so that it has one entire edge straight and perpendicular to the length.

Sunburst Match (Pie Match)

Consecutive sheets are trimmed into pie shaped pieces and matched in a circular fashion in which the points meet in the center. Mostly used on round, oval or octagonal shaped panels.

Surface Checks

Also called seasoning checks, these are (usually) small separations along the grain on the face of a board that are created as the shell dries and shrinks faster than the interior wood.

Surface Measure

A measure of area (length x width), as opposed to board footage, which is a measure of volume (length x width x thickness).

Tally

The footage, thickness, and size (lengths and sometimes widths) of lumber on a particular shipment or order.

Tight Side

In knife-cut veneer, that side of the sheet that was farthest from the knife as the sheet was being cut containing no cutting checks (lathe checks).

Type Sample

Approximately 8" x 11", a type sample represents a wood specie as a whole. It does not represent a specific log or flitch. Live samples are use to represent a specific log or flitch.

Unbalanced Construction

Warping caused when the individual layers or components of a panel do not respond equally to changes in moisture or humidity.

Veneer

A thin sheet of wood ranging in thickness from 1/8" to 1/100". The standard thickness may vary depending on species.

Warp

Warping refers to an abnormal distortion in the natural orientation of a fiber or material. Warping, which often results from high moisture or from positioning materials in a manner that is not level or flat, leads to bending, curving or twisting in a board, panel or length of wood, rendering the materials unusable.

WHAD

An overlay grade, in which worm holes, bird pecks, and streaks are considered as defects. WHAD is necessary terminology only because of the occasional use of a similar, but more inclusive, grade called WHND (a grade in which worm holes are not a defect).

WHND

An overlay grade in which worm holes, bird pecks, and streaks are not considered as defects in the grade. This grade is most commonly used for soft maple.

Worm Holes, Tracks

Holes or tracks in the wood resulting from an infestation of worms.

Six Distribution Centers Serving the Southeast

We are committed to being your natural resource for hardwood lumber, plywood, veneers and a variety of quality cabinet supplies. As an industry leader, we continually upgrade our services and equipment to ensure on-time delivery for every order and the broadest possible offering of remanufacturing services. Six strategic locations throughout the Southeast allow us to provide top-notch service combined with competitively priced products.

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