

Domestic Woods



Alder

Alder wood comes from Eastern Europe and its colour ranges from tan to light brown. It is a light wood which is very easy to work with a fine even grain. Because of its properties it is easy to glue, finish and stain. Some of its' uses are in items that are turned such as bowls, furniture and even instruments



Ash

Ash is common to the northern United States and Canada. Its' colour ranges from light to medium brown with a medium texture similar to oak. It is easy to work, bend, glue and finish. Ash also turns well and some of its' us



Baswood

Basswood grows in the eastern part of North America and generally has a pale white tone to light brown. With a straight fine grain and even texture it is easy to work, glue and finish but does not bend well. Some of its' uses include carving, instruments and plywood.



Beechwood

Generally found in the eastern United States. It has a pale colour with some brown tones. With a straight grain and medium texture, it has good workability with gluing, finishing and bending. Some of its' uses are in instruments, furniture and plywood.



Cherry

Cherry has a light pinkish brown tone when freshly cut but darkens with age and sunlight. This light but strong wood typically has a straight grain with a fine even texture. It is easy to work with and turns well. Some of its' uses include cabinets, furniture, millwork and turned objects.



Hickory

Generally found in the eastern and southeastern United States. It is a very hard and dense wood with colouring varying from nearly white to dark brown. With a fine grain this tough and resilient wood is often used where strength and shock resistance is needed. While somewhat difficult to work with it glues, stains, finishes and bends well. Some of its' uses are for cabinets, furniture, flooring and tool handles.



Hard Maple

Typically found in the northeastern part of North America. Its' colour ranges from a nearly white tone to an off white creamy colour. Some of the grain patterns found in Hard as well as Soft Maple are known as Birdseye and Curly or Quilted Maple. As their patterns are not common they often demand a higher price. While it is fairly easy to machine and tool and as the name would indicate Hard Maple is slightly more difficult to work with than Soft Maple and has a tendency to burn somewhat when being worked with high speed cutters. It turns, finishes and glues well but a wood pre-preconditioner should be considered to obtain an even finish. Some of its' uses are in flooring, stairs, butcher blocks and cutting boards, workbenches, instruments and turnings such as baseball bats.



Soft Maple

The term Soft Maple does not refer to any one species of Maple but is a general term used for a variety of species to differentiate from Hard Maple. Most soft Maples have a tight grain and are lighter than Hard Maple and are generally used where the hardness of Hard Maple is not required. The colours can range from cream to yellow and even a pink or light reddish brown. Soft Maple is generally easy to work with but similarly to Hard Maple, it can burn when cut with a high speed cutter and a preconditioner should be considered to obtain an even colour. Some of its' uses include furniture and cabinets, instruments and turned objects.



Red Oak

Typically found in the north-eastern United States and south-eastern part of Canada. Its' colour is light to medium brown and often has a reddish tinge to it. The grain is generally straight with a coarse and uneven texture. While it generally works, glues, steam bends and finishes well, Red Oak has moderate stability when it comes to shrinkage. Some of its' uses include furniture, cabinets, flooring, trim and veneers.



White Oak

Generally found in the eastern United States. It is generally light to medium brown in colour with a coarse uneven texture. White Oak works well and glues, stains, bends and finishes well. Some of its' uses include furniture, cabinets, interior trim, boatbuilding and barreling.



Pine

There are a multitude of varieties of Pine. Being a soft wood it works, glues and generally finishes well. The grain is usually straight with an even medium texture. It has a wide variety of uses such as plywood, furniture, millwork, carving.



Walnut

Found in a variety of locations Walnut has a medium texture and low natural luster. The colour can range from pale to dark brown. Walnut is typically easy to work with a straight and regular grain. Although Walnut is often finished without staining it does glue, stain, finish and bends well. Some of its' uses include furniture, gun stocks, cabinetry, turned items and specialty pieces. The nature oils are toxic and Walnut should not be used for cutting boards



Birch

Birch wood is one of the least expensive woods on the market. It can easily warp as it is drying, but once it has been completely treated, it is extremely strong and durable. Birch wood is a very easy hardwood to stain and finish. It is often used as a substitute for maple because it has a similar grain pattern.



Poplar

The sapwood is creamy white and may be streaked, and the heartwood varies from pale yellowish-brown to olive green. The green color in the heartwood will tend to darken on exposure to light and turn brown. The wood has a medium-to-fine texture and is straight-grained.

