

WOOD IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

American Cherry

PARAMOUNT

Crafting Exquisite Woodwork Since 1984

Common Name(s):

Black Cherry, American Cherry

Scientific Name:

Prunus serotina

Tree Size:

50-100 ft (15-30 m) Tall
3-5 ft (.3-.6 m) Trunk Diameter

Janka Hardness:

950 lb_f (4,230 N)

Modulus of Rupture:

12,300 lb_f/in² (84.8 MPa)

Elastic Modulus:

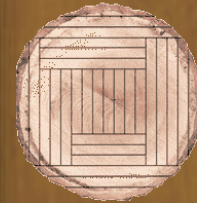
1,490,000 lb_f/in² (10.3 GPa)

Distribution Area:

Eastern North America



Plain Sawn



Quarter Sawn



Raw



Sealed



Color/Appearance: The heartwood of cherry exhibits an initial light pinkish-brown hue upon fresh cutting, transforming into a medium red-dish-brown shade over time and with exposure to light. The broad sapwood displays a pale yellowish color. It is typical for boards to include some sapwood sections along their outer edges.

Grain/Texture: Typically, cherry wood features a straight grain, except for instances of figured pieces showcasing curly grain patterns. It possesses a fine and even texture, coupled with a moderate natural luster.

Workability: Recognized for its excellent workability, black cherry stands out as a versatile wood choice. It boasts stability, a straight grain, and performs well during machining. Challenges may arise when staining, potentially leading to blotchy results. To address this, it is advisable to use a sanding sealer before staining or opt for a gel-based stain. The presence of common sapwood can contribute to a higher waste factor.

As black cherry matures, it acquires a distinctive reddish-brown patina, a sought-after aesthetic often replicated using wood stains on alternative hardwoods like yellow poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). The aging of the wood can be expedited by carefully exposing it to direct sunlight.