

WOOD IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Red Oak

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Common Name(s):

Red Oak

Scientific Name:

Quercus rubra

Tree Size:

80-115 ft (25-35 m) Tall
3-6 ft (1-2 m) Trunk Diameter

Janka Hardness:

1,220 lb_f (5,430 N)

Modulus of Rupture:

14,380 lb_f/in² (110.1 MPa)

Elastic Modulus:

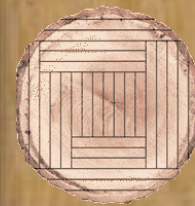
1,761,000 lb_f/in² (12.14 GPa)

Distribution Area:

Northeastern United States
and Southeastern Canada



Plain Sawn



Quarter Sawn



Raw



Sealed



Color/Appearance: The heartwood of red oak typically exhibits a light to medium brown hue, often with a reddish undertone. The transition between the paler sapwood and the heartwood may not always be distinctly defined. Quartersawn portions reveal noticeable ray fleck patterns. While white oak generally displays a slightly more olive tint rather than red, relying solely on color may not always provide a reliable means of distinguishing between oak types.

Grain/Texture: The grain of red oak wood is characterized by its straight pattern and a coarse, uneven texture. The pores are notably large and open, maintaining a sufficiently straight alignment.

Workability: Yields favorable outcomes when employed with both hand and machine tools. Exhibits moderately high shrinkage, leading to somewhat modest dimensional stability, especially in flatsawn boards. May interact with iron, especially in damp conditions, potentially causing staining and discoloration. Demonstrates good responsiveness to steam-bending techniques. Adheres effectively to glues, accepts stains, and finishes well.

Certainly, one could argue that red oak stands as the most widely favored hardwood in the United States, making it a common presence in numerous households. Even surfaces imitating wood, such as vinyl, often replicate the appearance of red oak. It is extensively used in the crafting of cabinets and furniture.

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