




American Heritage Crafters – Wood Species Information

Like all living things, trees are affected by their surroundings. From seedlings to maturity, soil and weather conditions cause the development of distinctive grain patterns, mineral streaks and color variations. Susceptibility to change doesn't stop after the tree is harvested. The finest hardwoods continue to respond to environmental conditions as time goes by. The color, grain and texture variations that develop are what make wood unique and are part of the intrinsic beauty of fine hardwoods. The unique characteristics of wood are natural therefore the manufacturer cannot take responsibility for the conditions described. Samples and photographic reproductions of wood grains and tones do not always give the true representation of your final product. We, at American Heritage Crafters stand behind the workmanship of our product, but cannot select specific woods for jobs, nor replace doors that have natural variations in color and wood grain.

Listed below are samples of wood species offered by American Heritage Crafters for use in manufacturing our *Premiere Collection* of interior and exterior doors along with a brief description of each wood. Please take a moment to discover the natural traits that are most common in your favorite wood species. Do not hesitate to *contact us* for specific wood species availability. Finishes on all wood types will exhibit color changes when exposed to different types of light and environments over time. Through this natural process, graining differences, mineral streaks and color variations can be expected.

Maple:




Maple is commonly available in two groups. Hard maple, which contains sugar and black maple. Soft Maple contains red and silver maple. Maple is a favorite among furniture makers since the Industrial Revolution due to the ease of milling and finishing.

Color: Light to a reddish-brown.

Characteristics: Heavy, hard, strong, tough, stiff, close-grained and possesses a uniform texture. Maple has excellent resistance to abrasion and indentation, making it ideal flooring and door material.

Finishing: Takes neutral finish well; does not stain uniformly. Extra care should be taken while sanding and finishing, sanding lines and finish lines are more obvious due to maple's density and light color.

Ash:



There are several species of American ash: black, brown, and white, we offer white ash. Like most other hardwoods the timber of the white ash is heavy, hard, strong and durable. What sets ash apart and makes it valuable for many special uses is its exceptional flexibility.

Color: Nearly pure lustrous white, ranging through cream to very light brown.

Characteristics: Heavy, hard, strong and stiff excellent bending qualities.

Finishing: Accepts finishes very well, seldom painted.

Cherry:



Cherry is a graceful, multi-colored hardwood. In its natural state, it boasts a pinkish-brown hue with occasional shades of white, green, pink or even gray. Natural or light stains accent these color variations. Small gum pockets, streaks, pin knots and figures are common. Cherry wood will darken or “mellow” with age. Cherry helped define our American traditional designs because Colonial cabinetmakers recognized its superior woodworking qualities.

Color: Rich, reddish-brown. Cherry darkens considerably with age and exposure to sunlight.

Characteristics: The grain of cherry is more restrained than some other hardwood species, with very interesting grain character. Small dark gum flecks add to its interest and should not be considered a flaw.

Finishing: Cherry is unparalleled in its finishing qualities; its uniform texture takes any finish very well.

Knotty Pine:



Knotty Pine wood will encapsulate the dignified appearance of pine timber, whose rustic charm adds beauty that will endure in a timeless manner. Whether used in a door design or more traditional setting it will enhance the look of your home. The smooth timber is easy to work with either hand or machine tools and converts readily into fine moldings and cabinetwork.

Color: The large trees have a minimal amount of reddish-brown heartwood and exceptionally wide sapwood, which is honey-toned or straw-like in color.

Characteristics: Knots throughout make this wood distinctive. Natural characteristics in this North American specie are acceptable allowing some color and grain variations. Solid red knots are prevalent with minimal black knots no larger than a nickel.

Finishing: Knotty Pine takes most finishes beautifully, including paint, stain, lacquer and varnish. Unlike some of the heavier woods, paints and stains do not raise the grain; however, knots should be sealed before painting to prevent them from bleeding through the finished surface if desired.

Red Oak:



Red Oak is a major timber tree of the eastern and Midwestern United States. A big, slow growing tree, red oak takes 20 years to mature and lives an average of 300 years. Like the white oak cousin, it would be difficult to designate a wood that has been used more in interior design.

Color: Red Oak has a prominent open grain in which the sapwood varies from a whitish or grayish brown to pale reddish brown, and the heartwood varies from a pink brown to a light reddish brown

Characteristics: Hard, solid, and strong with moderate stability in use and little natural decay resistance. Machines quite well but has tendency to splinter and chip - avoid cutting against the grain.

Finishing: Most desirable for medium to dark finishes although most finishes can easily be applied.

White Oak:



White oak is just one of 86 oak species native to this country, but it is the classic oak of America. Although prevalent throughout the eastern half of the United States, from Maine to Texas, white oak lumber comes chiefly from the South, South Atlantic and Central States, including the southern Appalachians.

Color: Red Oak has a prominent open grain in which the sapwood varies from a whitish or grayish brown to pale reddish brown, and the heartwood varies from a pink brown to a light reddish brown

Characteristics: Natural characteristics common in this specie are acceptable and do allow minimal color and grain variations. Machines similarly to red oak but has greater tendency to chip and splinter.

Finishing: Most desirable for medium to dark finishes although most finishes can easily be applied.

Hickory:



A Native American tree, hickories are members of the walnut family. Hickory is the hardest, heaviest and strongest American wood in common use in terms of flexibility.

Color: White to tan to reddish-brown with inconspicuous fine brown lines.

Characteristics: Normally straight grain, but can be irregular or wavy; coarse texture, brown to reddish brown heartwood; white sapwood.

Finishing: The grain pattern welcomes a full range of medium-to-dark finishes and bleaching treatments.
