

Hardwoods 101

The Hardwoods identified below are often used for residential production and custom stairs. They are arranged in order or least expensive to most expensive.

Prime:



APPEARANCE

Assorted smooth hardwoods painted white. Be careful as there are various shades of white all referred to “prime”.

Hemlock:



APPEARANCE

The heartwood and sapwood of hemlock are both light brown with red tinges. The species has an uneven, commonly twisted grain and is medium to coarse in texture

Poplar:



APPEARANCE

Generally straight grained and "woolly" with a fine, even texture. Creamy-white to pale brown heartwood and sapwood.

Northern Red Oak:



APPEARANCE

Heartwood and sapwood are similar, with sapwood lighter in color. Most wood has reddish tone. Open, slightly coarse grain. Color and grain varies between the abundance of Oak subspecies.

European Steamed Beech:



APPEARANCE

Generally straight grained with broad rays, and fine, even texture. Pale cream to pinkish brown heartwood that darkens to a pale reddish brown.

Hard Maple:



APPEARANCE

Heartwood is creamy white to light reddish brown and sapwood is pale to creamy white. Closed, subdued grain with moderate figuring and uniform texture. Occasionally shows quilted, fiddle back, curly or bird's-eye figuring.

American Cherry:



APPEARANCE

Heartwood is light to dark reddish brown and lustrous. Sapwood is light brown to pale with a light pinkish tone. Fine, frequently wavy grain with uniform texture. Significant color variation between boards.

Hickory:



APPEARANCE

Some color variation from board to board, slightly harder than Oak. Tight, generally straight grain with a coarse texture. Pale to reddish brown heartwood and whitish sapwood.

Accoya:



APPEARANCE

Premium lumber used for exterior porches, balconies and decks. Stainable with 50-year above ground life.

Alder:



APPEARANCE

Red Alder's heartwood and sapwood are not clearly distinguished. Freshly cut, the wood is almost white, turning light reddish-brown upon exposure to air. Typically straight grain with close and even texture.

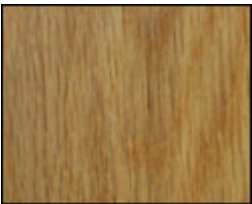
Brazilian Cherry:



APPEARANCE

Sapwood is gray-white. Heartwood is salmon red to orange-brown when fresh, becomes russet or reddish brown when seasoned and is often marked with dark streaks. Mostly interlocked grain with medium to coarse to texture.

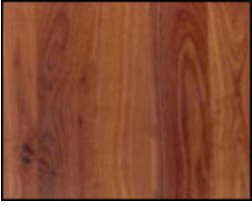
White Oak:



APPEARANCE

Heartwood is light brown and may contain some pinkish tint or a slight grayish cast. Sapwood is white to cream. Open grain with occasional crotches, swirls and burls. Considerable variation among boards in color and grain texture.

Walnut:



APPEARANCE

Heartwood ranges from a deep, rich dark brown to a purplish black and sapwood is nearly white to tan. Mostly straight and open grain with some burling or curling.

Santos Mahogany:



APPEARANCE

The heartwood is reddish-brown becoming deep red to purplish-red upon exposure. The wood varies from uniform to striped. The luster is medium to high, and the texture is fine to medium. The grain is typically interlocked and rippled.

Cumaru / Brazillian Teak::



APPEARANCE

The sapwood and heartwood of Brazilian Teak are relatively similar. Over time, the two will come together in a more uniform pattern. Cumaru's grain patterns are interlocked and wavy.
