

Timber Species

Allwood Living manufactures a wide range of furniture, including almost any timber and timber veneer specie that you might need. Our timber supplier is extremely helpful and can arrange many specialty timbers in a variety of grades to suit you needs.

Below is a list of some timbers typically used in furniture manufacturing, as well as some not so typical ones that we have had great success with and have a very striking appearance. With each timber is a description and some important points associated with each specie.

Tasmanian Oak:

Typically referred to as Tas Oak, this timber has a reasonably random grain pattern and colouring, as opposed to Vic Ash that generally is more uniform. We prefer to use Tas Oak as it is generally considered to be less prone to imperfections like internal check. It is very workable and has great stability properties to ensure the structural durability of your furniture. It is reasonably dense, giving medium resistance to surface dents. It is available in many widths and thicknesses and is plentiful in supplies. Its pricing structure is low

Jarrah:

Jarrah is well known for its very dense properties and its stability. It's a heavy timber and translates to high durability. Jarrah supplies are not very extensive and colours are generally lighter than in the past due to the shorter growth times. Jarrah will always change over time and continually darken during the years. Grading of Jarrah has not changed but it is becoming harder to source in typically select appearance, some gum vein and bore holes are often visible. Every effort is made to avoid these issues in obvious places unless specifically requested. Its pricing structure is medium to high

Black Heart Sassafras:

A very unique and striking timber with an appearance that will be appreciated for life. As indicated by the name, a distinctive 'black heart' runs randomly through the timber. Each piece is different and this is part of its appeal. The timber is generally a light brown in its colour which blends itself to most environments. This timber is one that is best hand selected to your specifications to ensure the look is as you want. Its pricing is medium to high

Kwila:

Kwila is basically merbau, the name changes when it becomes kiln dried – just to confuse us. Kwila has an attractive grain pattern and is perfect for outdoor use. Tables and chairs for your outdoor setting is what we typically use it for. The benefit of a kiln dried timber is that it will not bleed like others, a very common occurrence in merbau. It performs well in outdoor environments. Its pricing structure is medium.

Blackwood:

One of our favourites, the smell associated with machining blackwood is unique. Blackwood has a wide variety of colours and tones and it's this wide variety that adds to its appeal. It is denser than Tas Oak and can be placed midway between that and Jarrah. Blackwood can be used for both traditional and modern styles. As with Jarrah, it will darken over time. Availability is good, pricing structure is medium.

Silver Ash:

Silver Ash is what we recommend as an alternative for pine. Its appearance, while not being exactly the same (due to the milling procedures), is reasonably close. It has a similar grain pattern and colour to pine, especially in veneer board, but is a lot denser and therefore more durable and stable. Its workability is very good and although priced in hardwood standards (instead of soft pine), we highly highly recommend it. It can be known to have some open grain patterns. Our past customers have been very happy with the finished result. Its pricing structure is medium.

Bubinga:

An extremely unique and striking timber, and although not very common, it can complement any room with its outstanding appearance. It is mainly mid brown in its colour with dark brown to black grain patterns. Bubinga is even more dense than Jarrah and its weight can have to be experienced to be believed. Quilted bubinga (quilted is achieved through a manufacturing process limited to veneer board) is commonly used in Australia for the manufacture of high end speakers. Entertainment units are therefore the most common use of Bubinga to match an existing set of speakers. Its pricing structure is high.

African Mahogany:

A timber of light to medium density and is a good selection for antique style furniture. It has a pink to orange colour and is generally stained. Spirit based stains accentuate the grain pattern which is an excellent crown cut. Although not being the easiest timber to work with, it produces an excellent result. Its pricing structure is medium.

Danta:

Almost identical in appearance to commonly used brush box, it is considered to be more stable and is therefore recommended to ensure our lifetime guarantee. It is deep brown in its colouring and generally has grain flecks of light brown to white, occasionally even tending to pinkish tones. It has great appeal and with similar colours to Bubinga (the grain patterns are what distinguish the two timbers) it is more affordable and is therefore more common. Its availability is not as great as brush box, but reasonable supplies are still available. Its pricing structure is medium.

American Walnut:

A timber that we do not get to use much, but results in a very impressive finish. It is grey-brown in its appearance, dense and durable. Its dark grain pattern is generally uniform in appearance. Its availability is not great and sizes can be an issue, sometimes resulting in increased turnaround times. Its pricing structure is high.

Oregon:

Not your typical furniture timber, but is unique in its own right. For those of you with styled house comprising of timber features, Oregon can complement this style very well. Cathedral ceiling beams, stairs and handrails can be accentuated by continuing the theme. Its colour is generally light brown to orange, has a highly visible grain pattern with close knit grain lines that will curve depending on its growth. Its availability and sizes can be a problem. Its pricing structure is low to medium.

Spotted Gum:

A very dense timber with a soft colour and grain pattern that creates a complimentary piece of furniture in any room. Its durable properties lends itself perfectly to dining tables and benchtops. It varies in its colour from light brown through to medium brown, sometimes with a reddish tone and the occasional 'white' traces. Caution is advised with furniture designs as this timber is heavy in weight. Its pricing is medium to high.

American White Oak:

A highly appreciated timber in the design industry and has been used extensively in kitchens for decades. It is generally a light brown colour and has a very appealing grain pattern with generally close grain lines. Knots are often visible, but care is taken to avoid these in obvious places. As typical with American timbers, consistent widths are sometimes a problem. It has mid range durability and price structure.

American Hard Maple:

A timber we have had a lot of enjoyment with in recent years. Its colour is generally blonde to bone. Again the US grading system makes a select grade hard to maintain and varying widths are often used. The knots and other features present make it a beautiful timber to use for a 'natural' look and gives enormous character to any piece of furniture. Its pricing is medium.

If you wish for any further information about the timbers mentioned here, or any others you are considering, please do not hesitate to ask. We will endeavour to help in any way that we can.