

Wood Veneer
Reference Guide

NORTON
INDUSTRIES
INC.



Norton Industries selects only the highest quality wood veneers for your project needs. We try to provide consistency in color, texture, and grain, however, there is a range of variations. As can be expected in any natural product, these characteristics are consistently inconsistent, which is part of the natural beauty of real wood. If consistency is critical, we have solutions, including but not limited to staining and plastic laminate finishes.

This Wood Veneer Reference Guide was created as a tool to aid the selection process. You will find detailed information about the characteristics and variations of our most popular veneer species. If you are interested in a veneer that is not listed, please contact us at 888.357.2345. We can source any commercially available veneer, or match any stain color you require.

Hover over the veneer image to show examples of possible variations.

NOTE: These veneer samples are representative only. Natural variations in grain, figure, color, and texture are common.

ANIGRE

Color & Characteristics: Anigre heartwood ranges in tone from cream and pale yellow to tan and pink, and generally presents an even color. Grain texture smooth, with occasional light silica inclusions. Figure ranges from unfigured to highly figured, often with a pronounced fiddleback.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced

ASH

Color & Characteristics: White Ash heartwood can vary in color from pale yellow to light brown with grayish tones, sometimes tinged with red. The sapwood is light in color and can vary from a creamy yellow to nearly white. With a very straight and attractive open coarse grain, ash can appear similar to red oak.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced/Rift cut, Rotary cut

BAMBOO, CARAMEL

Color & Characteristics: Caramel bamboo veneer ranges from light yellow to beige to darker browns. Stringy, lightweight and full of texture. Bamboo veneer is a beautiful "green" product that is not only sustainable and renewable but is also very strong and durable.

Available in: Narrow or Wide Cane

BAMBOO, NATURAL

Color & Characteristics: Natural bamboo veneer ranges from light yellow to beige brown. Stringy, lightweight and full of texture. Bamboo veneer is a beautiful "green" product that is not only sustainable and renewable but is also very strong and durable.

Available in: Narrow or Wide Cane

BEECH, EUROPEAN STEAMED

Color & Characteristics: European Steamed Beech heartwood varies from pale pink-brown to a rich, reddish-brown when steamed. The sapwood is pale with a slight red tinge. A characteristic fleck makes the fine, even texture of the close, straight grain readily recognizable.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced, Rotary cut

BIRCH

Color & Characteristics: Birch heartwood ranges from light to medium dark brown or reddish-brown. The sapwood can appear light tan to pale yellow. Grain is tight and smooth with normal amounts of figure and other characteristics.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Rotary cut

CHERRY

Color & Characteristics: Cherry heartwood ranges from red to reddish-brown. The sapwood can be yellow to pale reddish-brown. Darkens under exposure to light to a warm reddish-brown to pale golden brown color. Contains pith flecks and gum pockets. Quarter cut has straight grain.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced

DOUGLAS FIR

Color & Characteristics: Douglas Fir heartwood is a light reddish-brown shade while its sapwood is creamy yellow. It has a high contrast between the early wood and late wood with extremely tight and straight fine vertical grain lines developing when the wood is quarter sliced.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Rotary cut

EUCALYPTUS

Color & Characteristics: Eucalyptus veneer has a wide range of textures, figures and colors. It has a unique figure that almost shows movement. Also known as Tasmanian Oak. It has a pink to golden brown color and often has a button-type figure.

Common cuts: Quarter Plain slice, Quarter Figured - Broken Bee's Wing

HICKORY

Color & Characteristics: Hickory heartwood is light brown to reddish-brown in color and the sapwood is cream to pale yellow. Contains variegated grain pattern, color variation, and color streaks.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Rotary cut

MAHOGANY

Color & Characteristics: Hickory heartwood is light brown to reddish-brown in color and the sapwood is cream to pale yellow. Contains variegated grain pattern, color variation, and color streaks.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Rotary cut

MAPLE, SELECT WHITE

Color & Characteristics: Select White Maple is predominantly sapwood and is near white with a slight reddish-brown tint. Fine even texture.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Rotary cut

MAPLE, WHITE

Color & Characteristics: White Maple veneer is generally creamy white with a slight reddish tint. Surface is smooth, tight, and dense. Growth rings are light and at times indiscernible. Quarter sliced produces a straight grain in this veneer..

Common cuts: Plain sliced , Quarter sliced, Rotary Cut

OAK, RED

Color & Characteristics: Red Oak heartwood ranges from golden light brown to reddish-brown. The sapwood can be white to light brown in color. Sharp contrast between coarse early wood and smooth late wood. It is open grained and in its plain sliced form expresses a very strong "cathedral" type grain pattern.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced, Rift cut

OAK, WHITE

Color & Characteristics: White Oak veneer has a pale yellow brown color and a more even grain than Red Oak. The heartwood may be either light brown in color, or a darker brown with deep, golden tones. The sapwood is fairly prevalent and is light in color and can range from a pale yellow-brown to a grayish-white. In quarter sawn, it has a very recognizable flake or tiger figure.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced, Rift cut

SAPELE

Color & Characteristics: Sapele heartwood seasons to dark reddish or purplish brown. Considerable variations in the grain are typical. Pronounced striped effect when quarter sliced. Pommele figure from rotary cut veneer appears as diagonal waves of varying intensity.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced, Rotary cut (for Pommele figure)

WALNUT

Color & Characteristics: Walnut heartwood varies from a dark tan to a rich, dark brown, and matures to an almost purplish-black hue. The sapwood is creamy white in color and fairly prevalent. Its grain pattern varies from very straight to interlocked and natural features include crotches, swirls, burls, and pin knots.

Common cuts: Plain sliced, Quarter sliced

Due to monitor capabilities and calibrations, actual colors will vary. We cannot guarantee that colors viewed on a screen will accurately portray the true color of the product. We recommend that you contact us for physical samples to verify color. As noted above, natural variations in color, grain, and texture are inherent in real wood products.

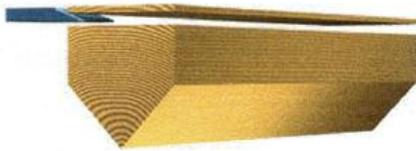
Other resources available for understanding veneers, species, grades, matching, core selection, and more are: Architectural Woodwork Standards - www.awinet.org; Hardwood Plywood Handbook, HPVA (Hardwood Plywood & Veneer Association) - www.hpva.org; Formwood Industries - www.formwood.com

Veneer Attributes

Veneer reduces the harvest of both common and exotic woods. The milling process of veneer in and of itself reduces waste. Solid wood timber is typically sawn into 1" thick boards. The sawblade itself cuts a space (called a 'kerf') between boards 1/16" to 1/4" thick that winds up as waste. Veneer, on the other hand, is not cut from the log, but is sliced with a knife into leaves or sheets with little or no sawdust at all. This produces 42 wood surfaces using veneer for every one surface that a 1" board produces, thereby reducing the demand for solid wood.

Veneer Cuts

The size of the log, the species of wood, the grain pattern desired, and other factors, determine which type of cut will be made to create veneer. Below are some of the most common methods of cutting logs.



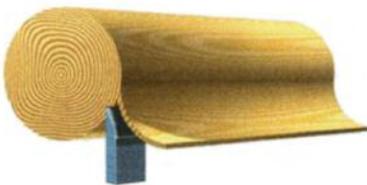
PLAIN SLICE OR FLAT CUT

The slicing is parallel to the center of the log. This creates a "cathedral effect" formed by the innermost growth rings.



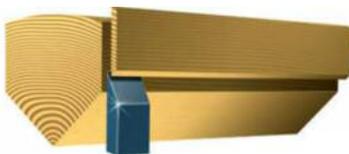
RIFT CUT

The slicing is at a slight angle to minimize the irregularities in the wood. This cut creates a narrow striped grain appearance and is used primarily for red and white oak.



ROTARY CUT

The log is centered on a lathe and turned against a broad cutting knife set into the log at a slight angle. This cut creates a variegated figured grain appearance. Rotary veneer is not matched due to nature of cut. Seams have uniform grain and color.



QUARTER SLICING

The slicing is made perpendicular to the annual growth rings of the tree. This creates a straight grain appearance.