



AMERICAN WHITE OAK

(Quercus alba)

American white oak is a hardwood common throughout the eastern United States. The name 'white oak' encompasses numerous species, eight of which are commercially available as timber. Very similar in appearance and colour to the European oak, American white oak has light-coloured sapwood and a light to dark brown heartwood. White oak is mostly straight grained with a medium to coarse texture, with longer rays and more figure than American red oak. It has large distinctive growth rings, and some medullary rays may be present.



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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

COLOUR

The heartwood of American white oak is pale yellow-brown to mid-brown, sometimes with a pink tinge. The sapwood is light coloured. It is mostly straight grained with a medium to coarse texture, and with longer rays and more figure than red oak. It has large distinctive growth rings and some medullary rays may be present.

DENSITY

Unseasoned: 985KG/m³ Seasoned: 750KG/m³

GRAIN

Grain is straight, with a coarse, uneven texture.

STRENGTH

Seasoned – SD6

STRUCTURAL RATINGS

Non-Structural

HARDNESS (JANKA)

6.0kN (Seasoned) & 4.7kN (Unseasoned)

TERMITE RESISTANCE

Not Resistant

SHRINKAGE TO 12% MC

High (6.6% tangential – 3.2% radial)

DURABILITY ABOVE GROUND

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DURABILITY IN GROUND

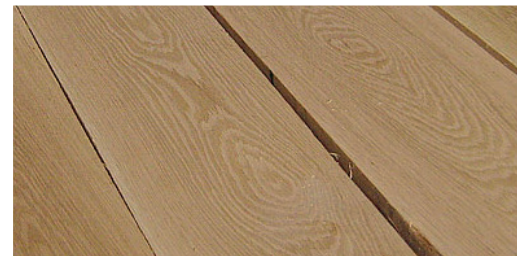
Low – 0-5 Years

WORKING PROPERTIES

American white oak is a hard and heavy wood, with low stiffness and medium crushing and bending strength. It also has extremely good steam bending properties. American white oak is easy to machine, nail, glue and screw. It stains easily and can take a wide variety of colours. It is a slow-drying wood, so care needs to be taken to avoid checking. Also, given its high shrinkage rate, under variable moisture conditions it is susceptible to some movement.

USES

In the United States American white oak is used for a wide variety of purposes, including structural, exterior and interior applications, and in the making of vats for spirits and wine. Due to its interesting and prominent grain pattern and consistency of colour throughout the range of subspecies marketed as American white oak, it is a popular species for flooring, and in Australia is mostly for this purpose and for joinery and furniture.



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