

Timbers

Name: _____

Softwoods- grow in **colder** climates and are **fast growing**, this makes them fairly **cheap** and **readily available**. These trees have leaves like needles, are usually evergreen and have cones. (e.g. pines)

Wood name	Properties	Uses
Pine	Pine is yellow with brown streaks. Quiet strong, cheap, but knotty (makes it harder to work with.)	Telegraph poles, fences, cheap furniture.
Larch	Has an attractive yellow to reddish brown colour. Harder, tougher, more durable than most softwoods, resistant to rot.	Decking, cladding the outside of buildings, fence posts.
Spruce	This has a reddish brown colour. Hard, good stretch to weight ratio. Knotty, not very durable.	Used for structural purposes, aircrafts, crates, ship masts.

Hardwoods-come from deciduous trees. Which means they normally grow in warm climates and are slow growing, so they are more expensive than softwoods. The trees have broad, flat leaves and are usually lose their leaves in Autumn. The woods tend to have a tighter grain and be denser and harder than softwood.

Metal	Properties	Uses
Oak	Light brown colour, tough, durable, very strong, attractive grain markings, finishes well.	Interior panelling, flooring, furniture.
Mahogany	Red-brown in colour, durable, easy to work with, is expensive.	Good quality furniture.
Beech	Pinkish-brown in colour, hard, resists being dented, can be bent using steam.	Chairs, toys.
Balsa	White or tan colour, very low density, very soft, easy to cut and shape, high strength to weight ratio.	Modelling.
Ash	Pale cream colour, tough, absorbs shock well, attractive.	Tool handles, wooden sports equipment (e.g. baseball bats) furniture.

Manufactured Timbers- are made from natural timbers and made from particles/ fibres or laminates. Manufactured boards are usually made from timber waste and adhesive. To make them more aesthetically pleasing they are often veneered. They are cheap to buy.

MDF- stands for Medium Density Fibreboard- A high quality board made by pulping wood fibres and then compressing them.

Properties: Smooth, light brown in colour, can be veneered, absorbs moisture so not suitable for outdoor use, cuts well, stable, uniform strength, easy to finish.

Uses: kitchens and flat pack furniture.



Plywood- Is made by gluing together thin layers of wood called veneers. Each layer has the grain going across the one below.

Properties: Very flat, strong, easy to cut and finish, can be stained or painted.

Uses: in toys, interior doors, shelving, construction.



Chipboard- Compacted wood chips, laminated with a variety of covering.

Properties: Strong, but does absorb water, end cuts are difficult to finish.

Uses, veneered worktops and flooring.

Managed Forests-

Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) manages forests. They rotate the felling of trees and plant new trees where trees have been cut. This makes sure the resources is renewable.



Standard Size and Forms-

- The width of a plank varies depending on the size of the trunk available.
- There are two ways of drying timber: air drying or kiln drying.
- Kiln drying is quicker than air drying, but uses energy.

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