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Understanding the Natural Beauty of Wood Cabinetry

We believe that in order to truly enjoy the beauty of your new kitchen or custom cabinetry, a basic understanding of the “characteristics of wood” is helpful. We believe sharing this knowledge will serve our customers well and help them to understand the process of creating their cabinetry.

For synthetic products such as Thermofoil (PVC) or Laminate products, it is relatively easy to ensure consistency of grain, color, and texture within the cabinetry. Please contact one of our cabinetry design specialists with any questions you might have about these products.

When selecting “Natural Wood” for your custom cabinetry a few characteristics of wood must be considered.

1. Every piece of wood is distinct and uniquely beautiful. Many factors influence the way a tree grows. These factors include the moisture and mineral content of the soil, exposure to sunlight and genetic makeup, as well as changes in climate, growth rate and soil conditions. These factors all influence the color, grain pattern and species characteristics such as mineral streaks. All of these variations combine to produce unique characteristics that provide the beauty and essence of natural wood.
2. All woods change color over time. The amount of change varies depending on the wood species, type of cut, and exposure to natural light, as well as the amount and color of stain pigment used. While color samples give a general idea of the appearance of a specific stain color and wood species combination, it is impossible to represent all of the grain patterns, wood and stain colors, and natural variations that will occur.

It is important to consider these aspects of natural wood, because the effect of these variations in an entire kitchen may be different from what you now visualize in viewing a smaller display or finished sample. The variations can at times be broad; but they are all part of the beauty of natural wood.

At Creative Woodcraft Ltd. we utilize only select hardwoods and veneers. Thus, we strive to obtain the most consistent grain and coloration available for each species, yet due to the uniqueness inherent in any wood product, Creative Woodcraft Ltd. cannot be responsible for natural variations that may characterize your cabinet selection.

Natural Wood Species Profiles

BIRCH, WHITE: Natural birch is a medium-density hardwood with a distinct, moderate grain pattern that ranges from straight to wavy or curly. The predominant sapwood color is white to creamy yellow, while the heartwood varies in color from medium or dark brown to reddish-brown. This range in color makes a distinctive statement in a birch cabinetry selection.



CHERRY: Cherry is an elegant, multi-colored hardwood. In its raw state, it has a pinkish-brown hue with occasional shades of white, green, pink or even gray. Natural or light stains accent these color variations. Small gum pockets, streaks, pin knots and figures are common. Cherry wood will darken or “mellow” with age. This mellowing is a natural occurrence and a benefit of owning solid cherry cabinetry.



HICKORY: Hickory is a strong, open-grained wood that is known for its flowing grain pattern and dramatic variation in color. It often contains random specks, burls and mineral streaks, and it is not uncommon to see doors or parts of doors that range in color from light to deep brown when finished in light or natural stains. Darker stains will mildly tone these color variations.



MAPLE: Maple is a strong, close-grained wood that is predominantly off-white in color, although it also contains light hues of yellow-brown and pink. Hard maple occasionally contains small mineral, light tan or reddish-tinged streaks that will darken with stain. It is usually straight grained, but can be wavy or even curly.



RED OAK: Red oak has a prominent open grain that ranges in color from white to yellow and reddish-brown. Red oak is sometimes streaked with green, yellow or black mineral deposits and may vary from a closely knit grain to a sweeping arch pattern. Burl and pin knots are acceptable. Select Red Oak is recommended for light stains and natural finish.



PINE, KNOTTY: Knotty Pine is a moderately soft closed-grain wood with a yellowish-creamy cast in color. Knotty pine has tight red knots and is suitable for rustic style cabinetry. Filled or loose knots and blue stain are not acceptable. This species is susceptible to ultraviolet light and will darken to a yellowish brown on all areas exposed to sunlight. A Pine clear grade is an option which has no knots or blue stains.



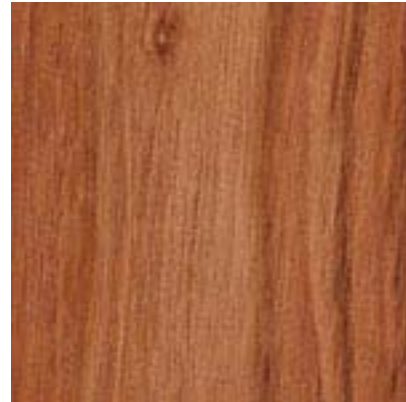
POPLAR: Poplar is a soft hardwood with sapwood that is white, sometimes with stripes. The heartwood is usually tan but can range from greenish-brown to dark green, purple, black, blue and yellow. The wood is straight-grained, uniform in texture, and moderate to light weight. It is not selected for color and is typically used as a paint grade.



FIR: Fir’s light rosy color is set off by its remarkably straight and handsome grain pattern. This light rosy color “reddens” over time to a pleasing deeper shade. Many designers and consumers agree the aesthetic appeal of Fir is unsurpassed among softwood species because of its clear, light, and straight vertical grain.



JATOBA: The sapwood of Jatoba is often broad and may be white, grey, or pink. The heartwood ranges from salmon to orange-brown when freshly cut. With age, it turns a rusty brown and is often marked with dark stripes. Jatoba wood has a golden lustre and its texture ranges from medium to coarse, with an interwoven grain. This is a very dense hardwood.



Creative Woodcraft Ltd. - Door Manufacturing



At Creative Woodcraft Ltd we have a “complete system”. This means we manufacture and finish our wooden doors in house. Building our own doors allows us to pass on huge benefits to our customers. We eliminate the huge lead times for cabinet doors that our competitors have because we do not have to wait for another company to manufacture and ship doors. Further, we have on-the-spot quality control, so that if we find a flaw with a door we can simply fix or replace that door immediately. We believe having control over the quality and manufacturing of our cabinet doors helps make us a leader in the cabinetry business.

Creative Woodcraft Ltd. - Finishing Department.



Creative Woodcraft Ltd. has developed with a strong tradition of quality and craftsmanship. To continue this tradition into the future, we have installed a state-of-the-art spray booth large enough to handle high-volume projects. We continue to use only quality finishing products to ensure that our customers are provided with the best finishes available on the market today.

Stains

When applying stain finishes, we must be conscious of the fact that no two pieces of wood are exactly the same. Creative Woodcraft Ltd. will do its absolute best to achieve the color you have chosen. However, we cannot control how certain woods or veneers choose to accept stains.

For example:

Maple is a particularly difficult wood to stain due to the changing grain pattern in the closed grain wood. Stain applied to this wood may appear blotchy and darker on the end grain.

Oak is an easily stained wood and veneer with different degrees of penetration. The stain takes differently on veneer panels than a solid wood frame, appearing darker on open and end grain. The overall color will be affected by the amounts of open grain, solid wood or veneer.

It is the nature of real hardwood to have a variety of colors and grain textures. These variations are the real natural beauty of hardwoods. There can be some variances with toning and penetration of stain when applied and we do our best to keep the color as consistent as possible. Therefore any unusual or wild grain patterns do not constitute a legitimate reason for replacement. No special emphasis will be made to select door/drawers to match one another.

When matching stains, the current colors will not be exactly the same as the stains that may have been used in the past due to limited availability. We will match the new stain as close as possible to the former color. Products made of wood naturally undergo color changes with age and exposure to sunlight and the elements. A color difference will occur typically within a year. The possibility of color variance applies to all aspects of the project and quote. Our customers must be aware of this and acknowledge this understanding.