




Materials and their properties– Timbers & Manufactured Boards

What you need to know:

- Know the primary sources of materials for producing papers & boards
- Be able to identify a range of natural timbers & manufactured boards.
- Understand their properties and the functions they provide and how they are used?

Natural Timbers		Manufactured Boards
Hardwood	Softwood	
		
<p>Hardwoods are usually obtained from deciduous trees, which lose their leaves in autumn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ usually grow in warmer more humid climates, mainly in South America and Asia □ grow slowly (80+ years) □ are more difficult to sustain than softwoods □ are more expensive than softwoods □ are strong and hardwearing. 	<p>Softwoods are usually obtained from coniferous trees, which keep their leaves in winter and are also known as evergreens. These grow quickly which makes them sustainable as they are renewable. This also makes them cheaper when compared to hardwoods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Usually grow in colder climates and are mainly grown in Scandinavia and Northern Europe □ Grow thin, needle-like leaves □ Grow relatively quickly (30 years) □ Are easier to sustain than hardwood trees □ Are easy to cut and shape □ Are usually cheaper than hardwoods 	<p>Manufactured boards are made from the waste sections of felled trees – the parts which are of little use as planks. The wood is reduced to pulp, particles or thin strips and bonded together using special adhesives or resins. Manufactured boards are made as alternative to natural timber.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Come in sheet form (usually 1.2 x 2.4m) □ Are extremely stable and of uniform thickness □ Are less expensive than laminating planks of timber □ Can be covered with veneers □ Are available in a variety of thicknesses (3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 22mm)

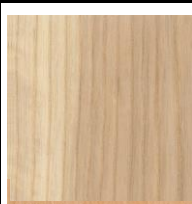


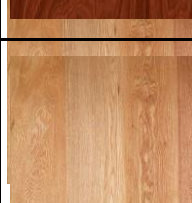




Sustainable Timber

Wood is considered to be sustainable material as trees can be grown to replace those used for timber or fuel. A big issue is in many parts of the world timber is being used faster than trees are being replanted. This causes deforestation which is seen as a key factor to global warming.




To regulate this The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) are dedicated to ensuring that timber supplies are regulated and sustainably harvested.



Types of Hardwoods

	Example	Properties	Uses
Ash		Tough and flexible, wide grained, shock resistant and finishes well	Sports equipment, hand tools and ladders
Beech		Strong, dense close grain but is prone to warping and splitting	Furniture, children's toys, bench tops
Mahogany		Strong and durable, easy to work with finishes well.	High end furniture
Oak		Strong and lightweight	Flooring, furniture and timber framed buildings
Balsa		Strong and durable but very lightweight. If too thin can snap & break.	Model making, floats and rafts
	Example	Properties	Uses
Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF)		This compressed board is rigid and stable and is easy to work with. It has a smooth surface but it is very absorbent.	Flat pack furniture, kitchens and toys
Plywood		This is a laminated board it is stable due to its alternate layering a 90°. It has good water resistance.	Furniture, shelving, skateboards and exterior fencing
Chipboard		This compressed board not as strong as MDF or plywood is prone to chipping	Flooring, low end furniture kitchen units & cupboards

Types of Softwoods

	Example	Properties	Uses
Larch		Tough and durable, good water resistance and finishes well	Fencing, cladding, decking, furniture
Pine		Lightweight easy to work with but can be knotty	Interior joinery and furniture and window frames.
Spruce		Easy to work with and is lightweight	Furniture, musical instruments and construction

Finishing Natural Timbers

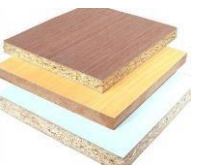
Timbers can be treated with a number of surface finishes these include Paint, Stain, Wax & Varnish. Applying these finishes can:

- Seals the wood to protect the surface from heat and water
- Enhance the grain & surface
- To colour the surface
- To give a specific aesthetic appeal.

Finishing Manufactured Boards

Veneer

A sharp blade cuts very thin layers wood called veneer. A layer of veneer can be glued onto less expensive manufactured board to produce a more attractive finish and imitate natural timbers but maintain the properties of a manufactured board.



Lamination

Laminating involves bonding by gluing strips of materials together in layers to create a strong structure. An example of this is wooden beams. If thinner materials are used for lamination the curves can be more complex.

