

Hardwoods: Sapele Mahogany



Trade Name:	Sapele
Botanical Species:	Entandrophragma cylindricum
Other Names:	Sapele Mahogany
Country of Origin:	West Africa
Air Dry Density:	640kgs/m ³
Durability:	Durable
Colour:	Dark
Strength:	8+ (on a scale of 1 – 10)

Seasoning:

- Requires care in kiln drying to avoid distortion and degrade.

Characteristics:

- The wood is medium hard and medium weight.
- Planed surfaces are mildly lustrous.
- The heartwood is pinkish-red when freshly cut, darkening to a rich red-brown.
- The most striking feature is the double spiral grain which produces a very regular stripe or rose figures in quarter sawn material.
- The texture is fine and even and there is a pronounced cedar-like smell when freshly cut.

Working Qualities:

- Saws easily and cleanly with little waste and works fairly easily with hand and machine tools although the interlocked grain may be troublesome in planning and moulding.
- To eliminate picking up quarter sawn material, the cutting angle should be reduced to 15°.
- Takes nails and screws and glues well.
- It takes a high polish.

Uses:

- Gifted with both strength and appearance, the timber has a wide range of uses.
- It is used for furniture, paneling, shop and window fittings, high class interior joinery and all general cabinet working purposes, including boat building.
- Widely used for decorative veneering, it is often sliced to show the narrow 'pencil' stripe which is a characteristic of the species.
- It is also used for rotary cut plywood.

Product Attributes:

- It is also used for rotary cut plywood
- Stains readily and takes an excellent polish.
- Veneers available.
- It is fairly close textured with interlocked grain.
- Machines well with care.
- Quarter sawn timber produces a regular striped effect.