

Sapele Mahogany (West Africa)

Specification sheet



SAPELE

<u>Other Name(s):</u>	Sapele Mahogany
<u>Scientific Name:</u>	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>
<u>Distribution:</u>	West Africa
<u>Average Dried Weight:</u>	640 kg/M3
<u>Durability:</u>	Durable
<u>Janka Hardness:</u>	6.7 (kN)
<u>Modulus of Rupture/Bending Strength</u>	(110 MPa)
<u>Modulus of Elasticity/ stiffness:</u>	(11.7 GPa)
<u>Strength Group:</u>	SD5

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.