



## **Wood Characteristics and Finish Awareness**

### **Wood Species**



#### **Ash**

The sapwood is light-colored to nearly white and the heartwood varies from grayish or light brown, to pale yellow streaked with brown. The wood is generally straight-grained with a coarse uniform texture.



#### **Red Oak**

The sapwood of red oak is white to light brown and the heartwood varies from a light pink to a dark reddish brown. Oaks have a very open grain pattern. Occasionally, small pink pin knots will be present.



#### **Maple**

Maple varies in color from nearly white to yellow, pink, light purple and slightly reddish brown. The heartwood varies from light to dark reddish brown, sometimes streaked with darker mineral colors. Maple tends to yellow slightly with age. The wood is usually described as straight, closed grained.



#### **Alder**

Red alder, principally grown in the Pacific Northwest, is almost white when freshly cut but quickly changes on exposure to air, becoming light brown with a yellow or reddish tinge. Heartwood is formed only in trees of advanced age and there is no visible boundary between sap and heartwood. The wood is fairly straight-grained with a uniform texture. Knotty Alder is sorted for knots to be used in the manufacturing of doors and drawer fronts.



#### **Poplar**

#### **Multi Family Spec**

The sapwood is creamy white and may be streaked, with the heartwood varying from pale yellowish brown to olive green. The green color in the heartwood will tend to darken on exposure to light and turn brown. The wood has a medium to fine texture and is straight-grained; has a comparatively uniform texture.



#### **Basswood**

#### **Multi Family Spec**

Basswood grows principally in the Northern and Lake states. The sapwood is usually quite large and creamy white in color, merging into the heartwood which is pale to reddish brown, sometimes with darker streaks. The wood has a fine uniform texture and indistinct grain that is straight.



### **Important Product and Finish Advisories**

Finishes are used that enhance the natural beauty of wood. Extra care is taken to assure a uniform finish. Like a fingerprint, characteristic differences in color and grain are produced by nature in every tree. These variations are what create the beauty in our hardwood products. These variations will cause variation in the finish, even though identical finishing processes are applied. Also as hardwoods age the color and characteristics will change. White painted face frames will eventually have visible seam lines at the joint area and stained hardwood species will darken or lighten with time. Furthermore, sunlight, smoke, household cleaners and other environmental conditions can also affect the color of the cabinetry in the same way.