

Types of Wood

(The Wood Database)

Hardness is one of the simplest ways to distinguish the wood used for furniture. Contrary to the popular belief, hardwood is not necessarily harder and denser compared to softwood. In botanical terms, **hardwood comes from flowering trees while softwood comes from conifers. Both hardwood and softwood are used for everything from structural to decorative purposes.**

Hardwood

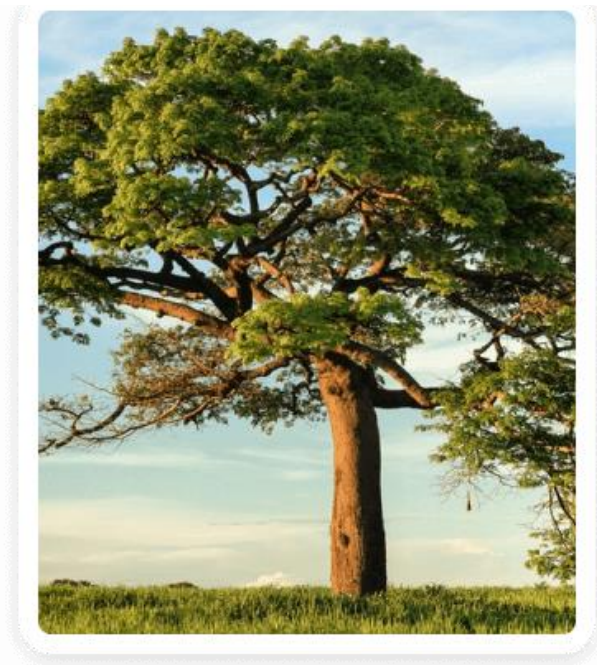
Hardwood comes from Angiosperms such as maple, oak, and walnut. These trees lose their leaves annually (deciduous or broad-leafed trees). As they grow slowly, hardwood has denser wood fibers (fiber tracheids and libriform fibers). **An interesting fact about hardwood is that some types of hardwood can't float in water. For example, Black ironwood is perhaps the hardest and heaviest wood that sinks in water.**

Properties of Hardwood

It grows slowly compared to softwoods. So, hardwood is relatively expensive. However, there are exceptions. For example, Gum is a hardwood that comes at a price comparable with most types of softwood.



Hardwood is durable. **(less likely to decay and rot), comes with close grain, and requires low maintenance.**



As it comes with low sap content and good fire resistance, hardwood is commonly used for wooden flooring. However,

hardwood flooring is also revered for its varied natural colors, styles, and perforation plate patterns.



It is also used for making furniture.

However, not all types of hardwood are ideal for making furniture.

