



# Wood Species & Stain Options



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Choosing the right wood species and stain combination is one of the most impactful decisions in custom cabinetry. Each wood type absorbs stain differently, which can dramatically influence the final color, depth, and grain visibility. From the subtle texture of maple to the bold movement of hickory or the warm, knotty character of rustic cherry, understanding how wood and stain work together will help you select a look that truly fits your space.



## WHITE OAK



White Oak is one of the most sought after cabinet woods for its strength, stability, and beautiful grain pattern. Its closed grain and dense structure make it highly durable, while its pale tone accepts a wide range of stains, from soft neutrals to deep, dramatic hues.

Its timeless appeal works well in both traditional and modern designs, and it's especially popular for clear coats that highlight its organic texture. Whether used for entire kitchens or as a contrasting accent, White Oak offers a refined yet natural look that never goes out of style.

### STAINING & FINISHING

Because of its uniform grain and light tone, White Oak adapts beautifully to a wide range of stains. From warm honey to rich browns and deep espresso, it absorbs color evenly and highlights the natural grain. Stains are fully customized to match your space, preferences, or existing finishes—these samples are shown for reference only.

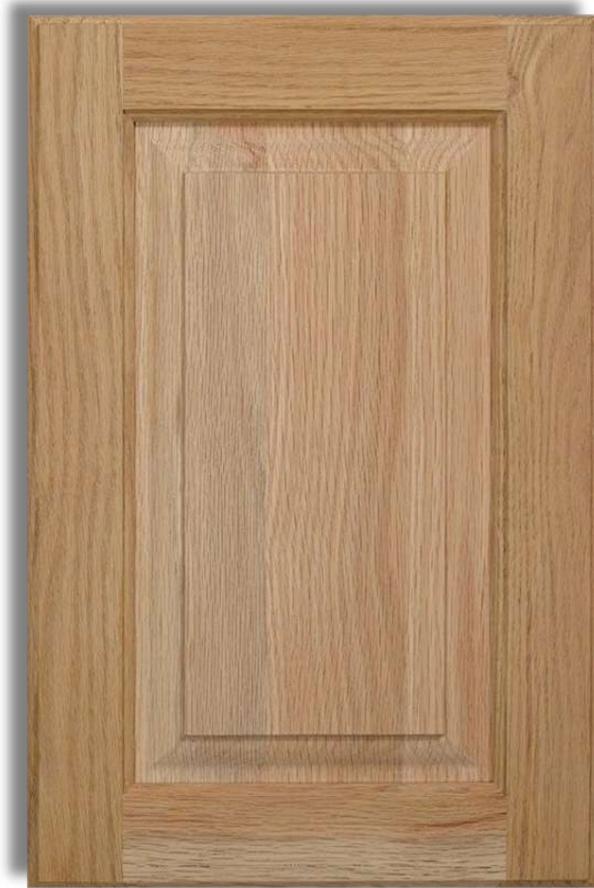


### GRAIN & CUT OPTIONS

White Oak is available in several cuts, each offering a different visual effect:

- Plain Sawn – Traditional cathedral grain pattern, most commonly used.
- Quarter Sawn – Features tight, linear grain and distinctive ray fleck patterning; ideal for a refined or craftsman style look.
- Rift Sawn – Produces the straightest grain pattern with minimal flecking; often used in modern designs.

## RED OAK



Red Oak is a classic cabinet wood known for its strength, affordability, and prominent grain pattern. Its warm undertones and coarse texture make it a popular choice for traditional and rustic cabinetry. Naturally reddish in hue, Red Oak has a distinctive personality that adds warmth and richness to any space.

Its open grain structure readily accepts stain, making it ideal for custom color matching or achieving dramatic depth. Whether used for an entire kitchen or a statement island, Red Oak offers a timeless, approachable look with a strong visual presence.

### STAINING & FINISHING

Red Oak takes stain exceptionally well, especially darker and mid-toned hues that bring out its bold grain. From warm honey browns to deep charcoals, it delivers a rich, dimensional finish that highlights its texture. The open grain can create a more rustic appearance, especially with darker stains or matte finishes.

As with all of our cabinet finishes, stain colors are fully customized to match your space, preferences, or existing millwork. These examples are shown for reference only, as Red Oak's grain can vary from board to board.



### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Red Oak is a cost-effective and widely available hardwood, making it a great option for larger projects or budget-conscious renovations. It's especially well-suited for spaces where durability and visual warmth are a priority. Because of its bold grain, Red Oak may not be ideal for painted finishes — we typically recommend it for stained or clear-coated applications that celebrate the wood's natural texture.

## CHERRY



Cherry is prized for its smooth grain, warm color, and timeless elegance. Naturally lighter when freshly milled, it gradually deepens into rich reddish-brown tones with age and light exposure. Its fine, closed grain gives it a refined texture that works beautifully in both traditional and transitional designs.

Though slightly softer than oak or maple, Cherry is easy to shape and detail. A protective finish can help prevent dents or scratches, but its natural beauty often shines with minimal stain which is part of its charm. Many customers choose cherry when they want cabinetry that feels elevated, classic, & full of character.

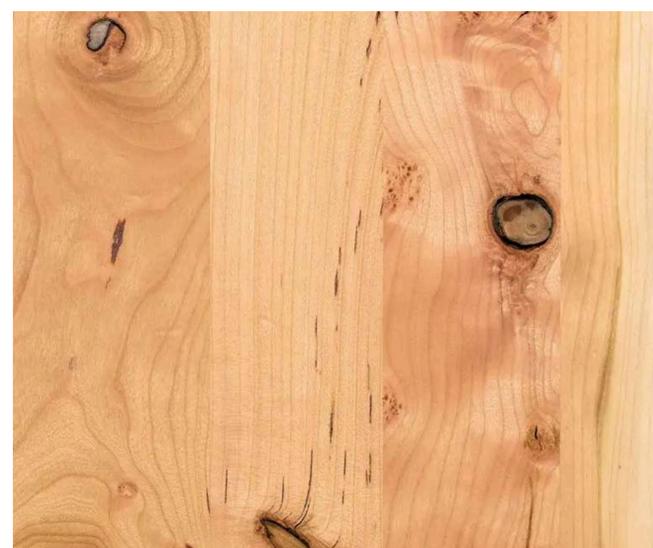
### STAINING & FINISHING

While many homeowners love the natural warmth of cherry, it also takes stain beautifully, especially mid tones and darker shades. However, because cherry is prone to natural color variation and darkening over time, it's important to choose a stain with those characteristics in mind. Many customers opt for a clear coat or a light warm stain to preserve the natural charm while enhancing depth.



### RUSTIC CHERRY

Rustic Cherry shares the same coloring and grain pattern as traditional cherry but includes natural knots, mineral streaks, and variations that add character. These unique imperfections make it a favorite for relaxed or organic designs, offering a timeless feel. Rustic Cherry absorbs stain like traditional Cherry, though knots and grain variation create slightly more dramatic, textured appearance.



## MAPLE



Maple is a popular choice for cabinetry thanks to its strength, fine grain, and smooth, uniform appearance. Its creamy, light tone makes it ideal for both painted finishes and subtle stains, especially in clean, modern designs. With minimal visible grain and no dramatic knots, maple offers a refined, understated look that works across many design styles.

Though hard and durable, maple's density can cause it to absorb stain unevenly, sometimes resulting in blotching or darker patches. For best results, a pre-stain conditioner or toner is often used to create a smoother, more even finish.

### STAINING & FINISHING

Maple takes paint exceptionally well and is a favorite for crisp, clean painted cabinetry. When staining, lighter tones show off its soft grain, while darker stains may mask its character. A pre-treatment helps reduce uneven absorption.



### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Maple is one of the most stable hardwoods, making it an excellent choice for high-traffic areas like kitchens and mudrooms. It's also a sustainable option, widely available in North America. Its smooth surface allows for intricate detailing or a sleek slab style, depending on the finish and design.

## ALDER

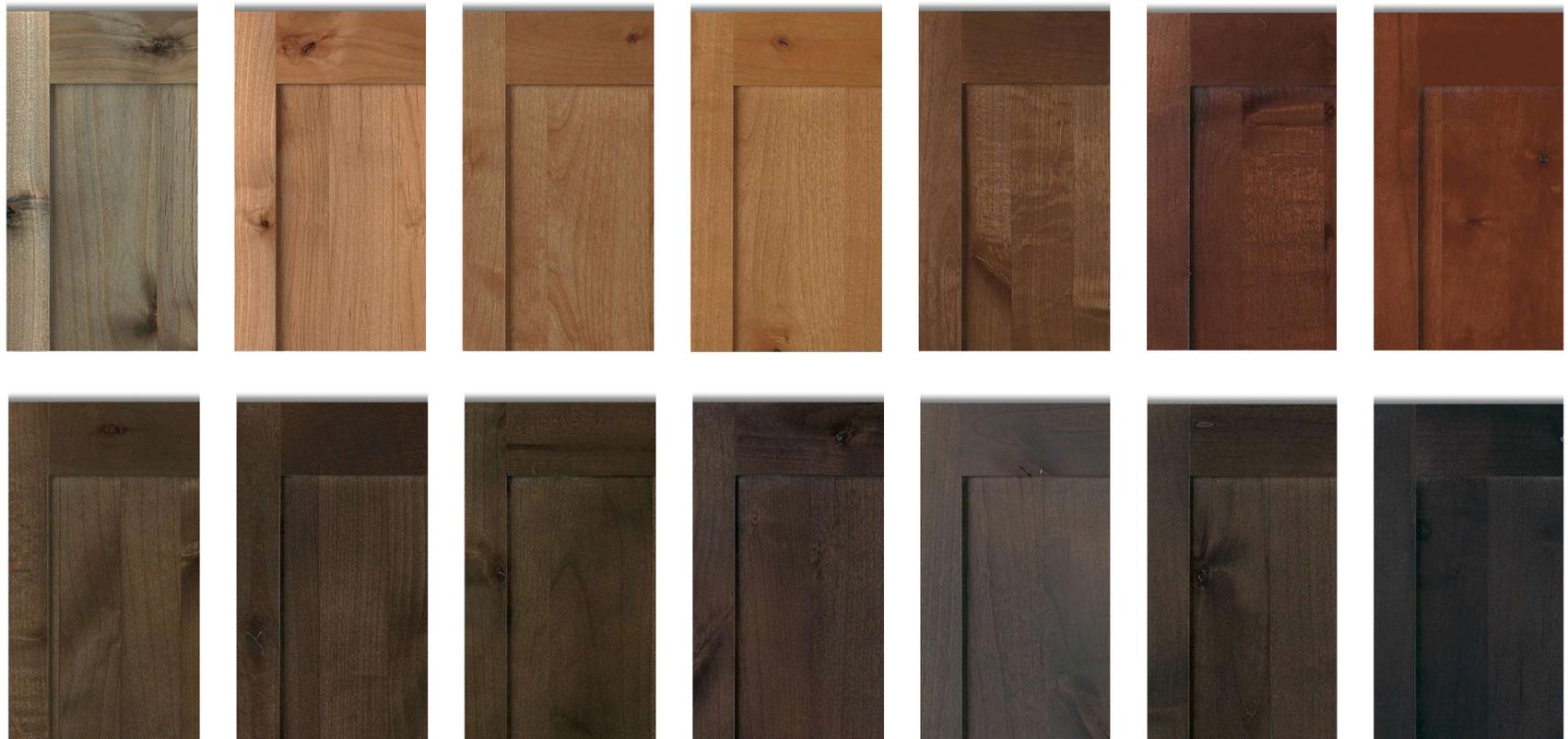


Alder is a soft, fine-grained hardwood known for its smooth texture and even coloring. With subtle grain patterns and a warm undertone, it's a versatile choice that works beautifully in both painted and stained finishes. Its lower density makes it easier to work with for detailed cabinetry or decorative accents.

While Alder doesn't have the bold grain contrast of other hardwoods, its understated appearance makes it a popular choice for achieving a clean, uniform look. It accepts stain evenly, often mimicking more expensive woods like cherry or maple at a lower price point, making it a budget-conscious option that doesn't sacrifice warmth or charm.

### STAINING & FINISHING

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### KNOTTY ALDER

Knotty Alder offers the same warm tones but with more rustic character, featuring visible knots and mineral streaks that bring a natural, timeworn feel. It's perfect for casual, mountain, or farmhouse-inspired spaces where you want wood with personality.



## HICKORY



Hickory is one of the hardest domestic hardwoods, prized for its dramatic grain contrast and natural durability. Its strong color variation—from creamy whites to deep browns—creates a bold, expressive look that stands out in any room. If you're drawn to movement and texture, Hickory offers unmatched visual interest.

Due to its density, Hickory can be more challenging to work with but yields exceptionally long-lasting cabinetry. Its unique grain patterns mean stain can appear uneven or dramatic, something customers love for its authenticity. Rustic Hickory exaggerates this effect, making each project one-of-a-kind.

### STAINING & FINISHING

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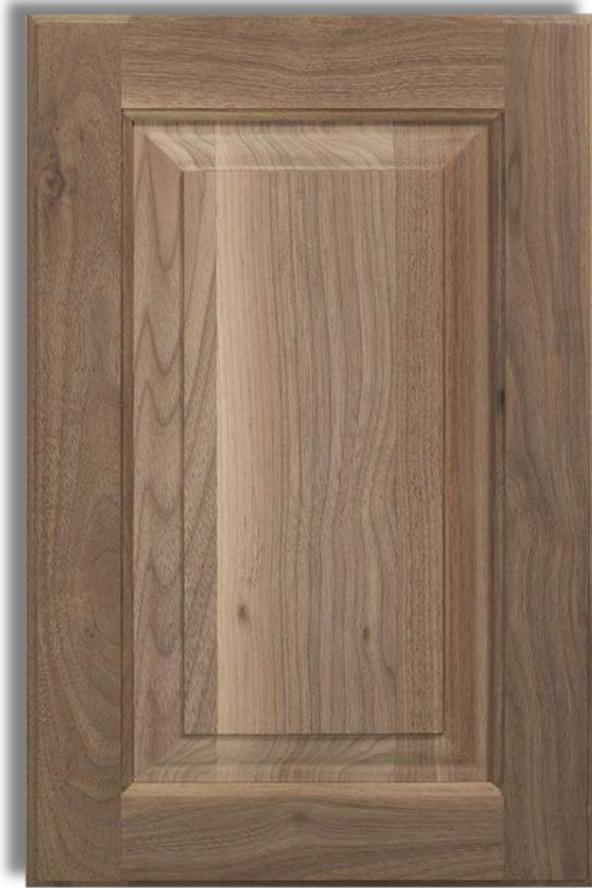


### RUSTIC HICKORY

Rustic Hickory includes the same striking contrasts but embraces natural knots, mineral streaks, and imperfections for a more rugged, organic aesthetic. It's ideal for cabins, lodge style homes, or anyone who loves a nature inspired design.



## WALNUT



Walnut is a premium hardwood admired for its rich color, flowing grain, and natural elegance. Ranging from light brown to deep chocolate with occasional purplish or gray undertones, it brings depth and sophistication to any space.

Known for its strength and dimensional stability, walnut is often used in high end cabinetry and custom furniture. While it's typically left with a clear coat to highlight its natural beauty, it can also take stain well for those wanting a slightly darker or more uniform finish.

### STAINING & FINISHING

Walnut is one of the few hardwoods that rarely needs stain to stand out. Its natural coloring is rich and varied, often finished with a clear coat to enhance the depth and tone without overpowering its beauty.

For those seeking a more uniform or darker appearance, walnut does accept stain well, though its natural grain patterns may be slightly subdued depending on the finish. Satin or matte topcoats are often used to preserve its organic warmth while offering lasting protection.



### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Due to its density and stability, walnut is ideal for heirloom quality pieces and premium cabinetry. It machines well, resists warping, and offers a luxurious, grounded aesthetic that instantly elevates a space. While it tends to be a higher end option, many customers choose to feature walnut selectively, such as for an island, hood, or built-in, to make a bold and beautiful statement.

