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Dark Red Meranti

Shorea acuminata — Dark Red Meranti, Lauan, Philippine Mahogany

Wood type

Hardwood

Sapwood Colour

Purplish in colour and not clearly demarcated from heartwood.

Heartwood Colour

Dark brown to deep red and sometimes deep purple. Conspicuous white dammer or red streaks.

Grain

Typically interlocked

Texture

Rather coarse



Lustre

Dull, non-lustrous

Ease Of Drying

Slowly and fairly difficult to dry. Warping may occur. Thick material may check and end split.

Movement In Service

Dimensional stability after seasoning and holds shape well.

Natural Durability

Heartwood moderately durable to durable. Sapwood vulnerable to powder post beetle. Not resistant to attack by marine borers.

Resistance to Impregnation

Heartwood varies from resistant to very resistant. Sapwood fairly permeable to permeable.

Cutting Resistance

Generally easy to saw but the presence of interlocked grain may cause sawn surfaces to be fibrous.

Blunting Effect On Cutters

Slight blunting.

Planing

Harder and stronger than light red, Meranti - dark red timber is generally easy to plane and work in most operations. Responds well to ordinary tools but cutting edges need to be kept clean and very sharp. Reducing the cutting angle to 20 degrees is recommended to prevent tearing where there is interlocking grain.

Turning

Generally good, usually clean if straight grained.

Moulding Properties

Stronger and harder than light red, but moulds rather easily to produce clean surfaces.

Environmental Profile

Rather secure. Little or no threat to its population. Sourced from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.



Boring

Relatively easy, but bored surfaces of materials containing interlocking grain may be fuzzy.

Routing and Recessing

Generally easy to rout with machine tools. Cutting edges should be kept clean and sharp.

Mortising

Easily and cleanly with sharp tools.

Carving

Generally good.

Gluing

Good.

Nailing

Good.

Screwing

Good.

Sanding

Denser, Meranti - dark red timber is better quality than the lighter timber.

Polishing

Good.

Staining

Satisfactory.

Steam Bending

Poor, buckles severely even with supporting strap.

Response To Hand Tools

Responds well, cutting edges should be clean and very sharp.

Strength

High bending strength in air-dry conditions (12% moisture approx). Compares favourably with Teak. Maximum crushing strength medium, which is lower than Teak. Moderately hard. High Weight. High Density.

Uses

Meranti - dark red, which is harder and stronger than light red, is used in general joinery, shopfitting, furniture, parquet floor, boat building and construction.



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