



## Technical Information > Hardwood Timber Timber Species > American White Oak



### **Quercus alba**

Quercus alba, the white oak, is one of the pre-eminent hardwoods of eastern North America.

### **Wood type**

Hardwood

### **Sapwood Colour**

The narrow sapwood of American White Oak is nearly white in colour.

### **Heartwood Colour**

American White Oak is pale brown, greyish brown, light brown or pale yellow streaked with brown. May be cream to very light brown, occasional reddish tinge.

### **Grain**

Bold, straight, moderately open with occasional wavy pattern. Usually have strong contrast in grain.

### **Texture**

Normally coarse textured.



**ILLINGWORTH  
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### **Lustre**

Lustrous

### **Ease Of Drying**

Air-seasoning occurs at a faster rate than average. Very little shrinkage. Kiln dried satisfactory. Drying defects – grey-brown sapwood stains. Distortion and end splitting may occur and existing shakes may open up. Kiln dried stock supplied.



### **Movement In Service**

Good dimensional stability.

### **Natural Durability**

The heartwood is reported to have little or no resistance to attack by decay causing organisms and insects. The sapwood is also susceptible to attack by the powder post beetle and fungi.

### **Resistance to Impregnation**

Responds well to preservative treatment.

### **Veneering Qualities**

American White Oak is used to manufacture plywood and can be sliced into decorative veneers for panelling and furniture.

### **Cutting Resistance**

Very little cutting resistance.

### **Blunting Effect On Cutterst**

Moderate

### **Planing**

Fairly easy

### **Turning**

Rather poor

### **Boring Qualities**

Very easy

### **Mortising Properties**

Poor

### **Gluing**

Satisfactory under controlled conditions

### **Nailing**

Good resistance to splitting, good nail-holding properties.

### **Screwing Properties**

Fairly good.

### **Sanding**

Satisfactory.

### **Polishing**

Good.



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### **Staining**

Good, often finished in black.

### **Varnishing**

Satisfactory.

### **Painting**

Satisfactory.

### **Steam Bending**

Satisfactory or fairly good.

### **Response To Hand Tools**

Works well.

### **Uses**

Construction, furniture, flooring, architectural joinery, exterior joinery, mouldings, doors, kitchen cabinets, panelling, railway sleepers, timber bridges, barrel staves, coffins and caskets. White oak can vary in colour, texture, characteristics and properties according to the growing region. It is therefore recommended that you work closely with Illingworth Ingham to make sure the wood you order is suited to your specific needs. Northern and Southern American White Oak may be sold separately.

American White Oak

<http://www.manchestertimbermerchants.co.uk/hardwood-timber/american-white-oak/>

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