

Wood Species Characteristics Cheat Sheet

Wood Species	Wood Example Picture	Cost	Weather Resistance*	Strength Grade**	Shrinkage***	PNW Availability	Wood Grain	Natural Wood Color	Texture
Douglas fir		Affordable	Very resistant	More Strong	Average shrinkage	Abundant	Straight grain	Light brown with a deeper brown heartwood	Smooth
Western red cedar		Moderate	Very resistant	More Strong	Less shrinkage	Abundant	Straight grain	Light reddish-brown with a darker reddish-brown heartwood	Straight
Larch		Moderate	Very resistant	Most Strong	More shrinkage	Available	Straight grain with a distinctive "cathedral" grain pattern	Light brown with a darker brown heartwood	Straight
Oregon pine		Inexpensive	Resistant	Less Strong	Average shrinkage	Available	Straight grain	Light brown with a darker brown heartwood	Smooth
Red oak		Moderate	Less Resistant	More Strong	More shrinkage	Scarce	Distinctive wavy grain	Reddish-brown	Coarse
Western hemlock		Inexpensive	Resistant	Less Strong	Average shrinkage	Abundant	Straight grain	Light brown with a darker brown heartwood	Smooth
White pine		Inexpensive	Resistant	Less Strong	Average shrinkage	Abundant	Straight grain	Light brown with a white sapwood	Smooth
Redwood		Expensive	Very resistant	More Strong	Less shrinkage	Available	Straight grain	Light reddish-brown	Smooth

*Based on study by *Natural Durability of Wood: A Worldwide Checklist of Species* by T.C. Scheffer J.J. Morrell

**Based on study from the *National Design Specification (NDS) for Wood Construction*, published by the American Wood Council

***Based on study from *Wood Handbook: Wood as an Engineering Material*, published by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service