

HARDWOODS AND HIGH QUALITY SOFTWOODS

# American Hard Maple



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What is American Hard Maple?

**American Hard Maple** timber is imported in FAS grade in thicknesses of sawn 25mm, 32mm, 38mm, 51mm, 63mm, 76mm & 100mm kiln dried.

**American Maple** is mainly used for interior furniture and joinery. Imported packs normally contain random widths 100mm to about 225mm and are in predominantly even lengths i.e. 2.4m, 3.1m, 3.6m as this is the standard method of American hardwood production. Occasionally we are able to obtain other lengths up to 4.2m long. The grade we stock is predominantly sapwood on one face and on part of the reverse. This 'white' colouring is favoured by joinery & furniture makers.

**Latin name** Acer saccharum, Acer nigrum

**Also known as** rock maple, hard maple, sugar maple, black maple

**Introduction** The Aceraceae family includes some ten species of the genus Acer found in North America, but of these, only about five species are important sources of maple timber; two of these produce rock maple and these are given below.

Acer saccharum Marsh produces rock maple, hard maple or sugar maple.

A.nigrum Michx f. produces black maple, rock or hard maple.

**Environmental** Not listed in CITES. Available from well-managed sources.

**Distribution** Found generally in Canada and eastern USA.



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## American Hard Maple Properties

**The Tree** *A. saccharum* and *A. nigrum* grow to a height of 27m or more and a diameter of 0.5m to 0.75m.

**The Timber** Hard maple is strong, heavy, hard, straight-grained and fine textured. The heartwood is light reddish-brown with deeper-coloured late-wood bands. The sapwood is white in colour, and furnishes the white maple prized for certain uses. It differs mainly from the soft maples in its greater density and firmer texture.

**Drying** All types dry without undue difficulty but rather slowly, particularly rock maple.

**Strength** Compared with European beech, rock maple is about equal in bending strength and in compression along the grain. Some 15 to 20% superior in hardness, resistance to shock loads and resistance to splitting.

**Working Qualities** Medium - Hard maple is rather difficult to work, the timber tending to cause saws to vibrate, and for cutters to ride on the wood during planing. A reduction of cutting angle 20° assists the finishing operation particularly when curly grain is present. The timber can be stained, polished and glued satisfactorily, but it is hard to nail or screw, although these are held firmly, the timber also turns well.

**Durability** slightly durable and resistant to heartwood decay. Sapwood liable to attack by furniture beetle. Heartwood is resistant to preservative treatment, but Sapwood is permeable.



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**Treatability** Difficult

**Moisture Movement** Medium

**Abrasions** Very Good

**Density** (mean, Kg/m<sup>3</sup>) 740

**American Texture** Fine

**Chemical Properties** High resistance to abrasion

**Physical Properties** Heavy and hard with good strength properties. High resistance to abrasion and wear. Good steam bending properties.

Working with American Hard Maple

**Use(s)** Furniture, paneling, cabinets, worktops and tabletops, interior joinery, stairs, handrails, mouldings and doors.

**Colour(s)** White/cream

What is FAS Grade

The FAS grade, which derives from an original grade "First and Seconds", will provide the user with long, clear cuttings - best suited for high quality furniture, interior joinery and solid wood mouldings. Minimum board size is 6" (152mm) and wider and 8' (2.44m) and longer. The FAS grade includes a range of boards that yield from 83.3% (10/12ths) to 100% clear-wood cuttings over the entire surface of the board. The clear cuttings must be a minimum size of 3" (76mm) wide by 7' (2.13m) long or 4" (102mm) wide by 5' (1.52m) long.



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The number of these cuttings permitted depends on the size of the board with most boards permitting one to two. The minimum width and length will vary, depending on species and whether the board is green or kiln dried. Both faces of the board must meet the minimum requirement for FAS.

Timbersource are a leading online hardwood timber merchant in the UK, supplying American Hard Maple timber to the joinery, carpentry, construction and building trade at competitive prices. To contact us, [Click Here](#).



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