

American Hard Maple



Please contact one of our helpful experts for more information **+44(0) 1373 469905**

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

Also known as rock maple, hard 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.

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

Distribution Found generally in Canada and eastern USA.



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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/m³) 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 on face

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.



The mark of
responsible forestry

