

HARDWOODS AND HIGH QUALITY SOFTWOODS

West African Idigbo



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What is West African Idigbo?

West African Idigbo timber imported FAS grade, is a yellow-brown coloured hardwood used mainly for paint-finished interior shop-fitting and joinery including windows and doors etc. Idigbo timber is a light and moderately durable hardwood, it is commonly used as an inexpensive alternative to Oak due to its likeness when stained the same colour. Idigbo may have discolouration and/or sticker marks, this is part due to kilning and is not considered a defect. It may also have signs of 'pin-hole' caused by a common African and Asian ambrosia beetle.

Thicknesses: 25mm, 38mm, 51mm, 63mm, 76mm, 100mm. Widths 80mm & wider, mainly 100mm - 200mm & lengths 2.1m-4.8m.

Latin name Terminalia Ivorensis

Also known as emeri (Ghana), framire (Ivory Coast)

Environmental Listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as VU - Vulnerable: at risk of extinction.

Distribution Occurs in Equatorial Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, southern Nigeria, in parts of the rain forest and throughout the deciduous forest areas.



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West African Idigbo Properties

The Tree A tall tree with a buttressed trunk attaining a height of over 30m and commonly 1.0m or more in diameter. The buttresses are broad and blunt, but the bole usually is clean and straight, 20m or more above the buttress.

The Timber A plain, pale yellow to light brown coloured wood. Sometimes relieved by a zonal figure originating in the growth rings, suggesting plain oak. There is little distinction between sapwood and heartwood, though the latter is somewhat darker in colour. The grain is straight to slightly irregular, and the texture is somewhat coarse and uneven. It is soft to medium hard, and weighs about 560 kg/m³ when dried. The weight is often variable, due to a prevalence of lightweight brittle-heart, particularly in large, over-mature logs. It may vary from 480 to 625 kg/m³ but for general assessment, the average dry weight is as given. Idigbo dries readily and well, with little distortion and splitting, and shrinkage is small.

Drying Idigbo dries readily and well, with little distortion and splitting, and shrinkage is small.

Strength It has excellent strength properties, being as strong and stiff as English oak in bending, although considerably softer and less resistant to shock loads. It splits easily and has been used in West Africa for roof shingles. When converting large logs, the heart should be boxed out as the brittle-heart has lower strength properties than the normal wood. In freshly converted stock, brittle-heart may often be recognised by a distinctive pinkish colour which may develop after exposure to light for a few days. Natural compression failures, often referred to as "thunder shakes" usually accompany brittle-heart.



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Working Qualities Medium - The timber works easily with most hand and machine tools. It has little dulling effect on cutting edges and a clean finish is obtained in most operations. There is a tendency however, for the grain to pick up when quarter-sawn material is planed, and a reduction of cutting angle 20° or less is advisable where smooth surfaces are required. Idigbo turns well and has fairly good nail and screw holding properties and will take glue well; stains effectively and reacts well to finishing treatments.

Durability Moderately durable. Heartwood is durable and moderately resistant to termite attack. Sapwood liable to powder-post beetles. Heartwood highly resistant to preservative treatments: sapwood moderately resistant.

Treatability Extremely difficult

Moisture Movement Small

Density (mean, Kg/m³) 560 (density can vary by 20% or more)

Texture Medium

Availability Readily available

Chemical Properties Stains yellow in contact with water, stains in contact with iron when wet. Acidic and may corrode ferrous metals.

Physical Properties Good overall strength. Moderate hardness and naturally resistant to moisture.



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Working with West African Idigbo

Use(s) Joinery interior and exterior, decking, furniture components, decorative panelling, flooring, light construction.

Colour(s) White/cream, Light brown

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. 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 timber merchant in the UK, supplying Idigbo timber to the joinery, carpentry, construction and building trade at competitive prices. To contact us, [Click Here](#).



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