

# Keruing Timber



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

**Keruing** timber comprises 70 similar species (from various areas in Malaysia / Sarawak / Sabah / Indonesia) which have variations of density of density and weight. For example it can vary from 640 - 960 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Texture is moderately coarse and may have shallow interlocking grain. The colouring is not an issue as it is used for exterior constructions and will weather to silver-grey. Sizes we mainly stock are 50mm x 150mm sawn and 28mm x 145mm (overall) profiled half-lap vehicle flooring, although some other sizes are available in limited quantities.

**Latin name** Dipterocarpus spp,

**Also known as** apitong, sabah gurjun, yang, Malaysian keruing, Indonesian keruing, Sarawak keruing, kruen.

**Keruing Introduction** there are some thirty species of Dipterocarpus occurring in South East Asia. For practical purposes it has been considered best to give the description and properties of the timbers together, since the exporting countries do not differentiate between the species but sell them collectively. This may result in variations in colour, weight etc.



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**Environmental** Many species appear on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and are classified as: CR - Critically Endangered: at very high risk of extinction in the wild / EN - Endangered: at high risk of extinction in the wild.

**Distribution** The trees of this genus occur gregariously throughout South East Asia, Burma India, The Andamans, Sri Lanka, Thailand, South Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines.

## Keruing Properties

**The Tree** The trees are evergreen and generally large, depending on locality, reaching heights of 25m to 45m and a diameter of 0.75m to 1.5m with a straight, cylindrical bole often clear of branches to 21m above a small buttressed base.

**The Timber** The sapwood is greyish-brown and distinct, and usually 50mm to 75mm wide. The heartwood varies from light red to reddish-brown or brown, darkening on exposure. The grain is usually straight but may be shallowly interlocked, and the texture is moderately coarse or coarse, but even. The various species vary in weight from 640 kg/m<sup>3</sup> to 960 kg/m<sup>3</sup> but an average for the group is about 740 kg/m<sup>3</sup> when dried.



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**Drying** The timbers of this group dry slowly, and it is difficult to achieve uniform particularly in thick stock or in quarter-sawn material. High temperatures aggravate the exudation of resin, and care is therefore needed in order to reduce this to a minimum and also to reduce the tendency for cupping to occur. There is high shrinkage during drying, and a corresponding high movement potential.

**Strength** Keruing generally compares with teak in most strength categories, but it is a little stiffer, and about 40 per cent more resistant to shock loads.

**Working Qualities** Difficult - the variations that exist between the different species and within species in respect of resin content, type of grain and hardness, affect the general ease of working, dulling of cutters and finishing properties. The timbers vary from hard to very hard in cutting across the grain, and whereas straight grained material is capable of clean, slightly fibrous finish in planing and moulding, quarter-sawn, or interlocked-grained material picks up during these operations unless cutting angles are reduced to 20°. Contains silica which has a blunting effect on tools. The wood stains satisfactorily, but due to the resin, varnishing and polishing require a lot of care. It takes nails and screws reasonably well, but its gluing properties are variable. Normally sold air-dried. Some cupping may occur.

**Durability** Moderately durable, non-resistant to some termites. Resistant to preservative treatments.

**Treatability** Difficult

**Density (mean, Kg/m<sup>3</sup>)** 740 (Density can vary by 20% or more)

**Texture** Medium



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**Chemical Properties** liable to residue exudation

**Physical Properties** high crushing strength, medium resistance to shock-loads, exudes resin naturally in humid or warmer temperatures.

Working with Keruing

**Use(s)** heavy structural use, flooring, lorry beds, wharf decking.

**Colour(s)** reddish-brown (also pinkish brown), dark brown / black.

Timbersource are a leading online timber merchant in the UK, supplying Keruing timber to the joinery, carpentry, construction and building trade at competitive prices.



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