

## Australian hardwood - strength and beauty, a proven performer structurally or aesthetically



**Renewable Australian hardwood provides a tried and tested resource, highly valued in a wide range of structural and appearance grade applications.**

There are many good reasons for using Australian hardwoods: they are among the strongest, most durable, versatile, robust and beautiful hardwood timbers in the world, and with such a wide range of species to choose from, there is plenty on offer.

Sourced from both responsibly managed native forests and plantations, Australian structural hardwoods are used extensively throughout the building industry in a wide range of structural and appearance applications.

Structurally, unseasoned wood is still used in many regional on-site framing applications including floor bearers and joists, roof rafters and ceiling joists. Seasoned hardwoods are used nearly everywhere, from general framing, large span floor joists, high strength structural beams and wall lintels, truss tension members and girder trusses, to stair stringers and treads or exposed beams, multi-storey residential timber framed construction (MRTEFC) and in bridges and wharves.

Australian structural hardwoods come in a variety of species, grades and sizes. Unseasoned F8, or seasoned F17 and F27 product is widely available with typical seasoned sizes being 35 or 45mm in breadth, and depths of 70, 90, 120, 140, 190, 240 and 290mm. Lengths up to 5.4 are generally available in 0.3m increments. Seasoned product is often also glue laminated to make longer and deeper sections (Glulam).

In the words of Vince Hurley from Australian Sustainable Hardwoods, structural hardwoods are “strong, stable, straight and reliable - everything you want from a structural timber. Not only are Australian hardwoods one of the most versatile and durable structural materials, they are readily available Australia-wide and highly cost-effective, making them a sound choice for any building project”.

**Whether it's a high strength structural or a classically aesthetically beautiful application is desired – an Australian hardwood product will definitely fit the bill.**

### **Showcasing the beauty**

Australian Hardwoods are also prized in appearance applications due to their natural beauty. Hardwood flooring, linings, windows, doors, cabinetry, joinery and furniture are specified widely by designers looking to showcase the natural and tactile nature of timber. Externally, durable and treated hardwood products are used extensively as cladding, decking, screens and landscaping materials.

### **Sustainable, renewable and recyclable**

Like all timber, structural hardwoods have a low embodied energy, meaning very little energy is consumed in its conversion from log to timber. At the same time, wood locks in carbon as it is growing and once it is harvested, the timber becomes a carbon store for the lifetime of the product, which in the case of structural hardwood, is a very long time.

An often-overlooked advantage of structural hardwood is that it can be recycled easily, again with little embodied energy compared to other materials, and re-used in a range of innovative ways. Increasingly, architects and designers are factoring recycled hardwood timbers into their buildings and products, with all the elements of historical value, high aesthetic quality and structural strength that structural hardwood brings with it.

### **Building a better future**

Structural hardwood is a product with a history of proven performance and consumer satisfaction. State and federal governments and the timber industry continue to invest heavily in the sustainable management of this vital and versatile native Australian resource.

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