

Knotty Alder

Material Attributes

- A lightweight and moderately soft hardwood with medium density.
- Features a moderately-open grain structure and a fine to medium texture in areas without knots.
- Texture can vary more in close proximity to knots.
- Veneers tend to be finer and smoother.

Grain Characteristics

- Generally straight-grained, with lines, waves or irregularity particularly around knots.
- Includes knots of all sizes. Columbia's cabinet doors can feature both closed and void knots, which may include depressions in the wood, but do not include open knots that have gaps passing completely through the cabinet door.
- May include pitch pockets, tan or reddish-brown mineral streaks, small cracks, bird's eye dots, worm holes and tracks and bird pecks. All are natural characteristics and not considered defects.
- Veneers typically display less variation and depth than solid wood, which often showcases more grain characteristics.
- In Knotty Alder projects, Clear Alder is routinely incorporated into cabinetry and component construction where structurally or aesthetically appropriate - as a standard industry convention.



Color

- Foundational color is a warm, golden brown accented by color variations greater than seen in Clear Alder, including light tan, pale honey and pink, dark brown, and rust.



- Knots have variability, from light to dark brown or near black, and often exhibit golden or red undertones.
- Overall color mellows over time with exposure to light, resulting in a richer reddish-amber appearance, particularly noticeable with lighter stains.
- Veneers may exhibit more uniform color because of how they are cut, where thicker solid boards can vary significantly. Veneers typically mellow more quickly than solid wood, which can lead to noticeable color differences between cabinetry components. This variation is a natural characteristic of using different cuts of wood and is not considered a defect.

Hardness and Durability

- Reasonable durability, overall, but a softer hardwood with a Janka hardness rating of 590. Can be susceptible to knicks and dings.

Finishing Properties

- Stains well, showcasing variations in color and depth due to its open grain structure, which influences stain absorption. Variations most noticeable in solid pieces, while veneers may provide a more subdued appearance due to their consistent grain pattern.
- Stain enhances the appearance of knots, which often appear darker than the surrounding wood due to their differences in stain absorption.
- Glazes and other specialty finishes may enhance the look of knots, cracks, and other depressions in the wood. Finishing materials will "hang up" in these areas, highlighting their rustic character.
- Ideal for distressing, due to its softer composition. Select this species for both distressed stained and paint finishes.
- When painting Knotty Alder, the wood's texture can remain visible. Knots may absorb paint differently, creating shadows, highlights, and areas that appear darker or shinier.
- As with all hardwoods, painted Knotty Alder is susceptible to expansion and contraction due to humidity and temperature changes, which may lead to hairline fractures at joints. This characteristic indicates the authenticity and natural qualities of real wood.

Aesthetic Qualities

- A distinctly rustic species, lending warmth and charm to interiors where comfort and a down-to-earth atmosphere is desired.
- Excellent alternative to Knotty Pine which is less durable and doesn't accept stain as readily.

