

## Maple

### Material Attributes

- A hard, dense, heavy, strong, stiff, fine close-grained hardwood.
- Uniform texture, though variations can occur from piece to piece.
- Veneers are smoother and more even than solid Maple wood.

### Grain Characteristics

- Uniform grain pattern with small variations, resulting in a smooth appearance.
- Subtle grain differences can include waves, curls, and fine lines.
- Tan or reddish-brown mineral streaks, fine brown lines, and small bird's eye dots naturally occur, enhancing its look, and are not considered defects.
- Veneers typically display less variation and depth than solid wood, which often showcases more grain characteristics.



### Color

- Varies from cream to pale, reddish brown, with possible light yellow-brown or pink hues.
- An amber appearance can naturally develop as Maple ages and is exposed to light, most noticeable with lighter stains.
- Veneers may exhibit more uniform color due to how they are created, where thicker solid boards can vary significantly from piece to piece. Veneers typically mellow more quickly than solid wood, which can lead to noticeable color differences between flat veneer door center panels and their frames, as well as other cabinetry components. This variation is a natural characteristic of using different cuts of wood and is not considered a defect.

### Hardness and Durability

- Exceptionally resilient – 1450 on the Janka hardness scale.

### Finishing Properties

- Accepts stains moderately well, though its naturally waxier quality can affect stain absorption, sometimes resulting in a lighter or less uniform, mottled appearance. This result is a characteristic of the species and not considered a defect.
- Stain can enhance grain and color variation, particularly in solid Maple wood. In contrast, stained veneers may exhibit more color uniformity due to their consistent grain pattern. Veneers may absorb stain to a lesser degree, resulting in a more subdued appearance.



- Accepts paint finishes very well because of its fine, smooth nature. Like all hardwoods, it is susceptible to expansion and contraction with changes in humidity and temperature, which can lead to hairline fractures at joints. This is a normal trait of real wood and indicates its authenticity.



## *Aesthetic Qualities*

- Creates a more subtle, consistent look for stained cabinetry, and is a favored substrate for today's popular paint finishes.