

Clear Alder

Material Attributes

- Lightweight and moderately soft hardwood with medium density.
- Features a moderately-open grain structure and a consistent fine to medium texture.
- Veneers tend to be finer and smoother.

Grain Characteristics

- Generally straight-grained, with occasional fine lines and subtle waves.
- Natural characteristics may include small pin knots, small bird's eye dots, and tan or reddish-brown mineral streaks, adding interest without being deemed defects.
- Veneers typically display less variation and depth than solid wood, which often showcases more grain characteristics.



Color

- Color ranges from light tan to medium brown, with occasional undertones of light yellow-brown or pink.
- Overall color mellows over time with exposure to light, resulting in a richer 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 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

- Reasonable durability, overall, but is 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 are most noticeable in solid pieces, while veneers may provide a more subdued appearance due to their consistent grain pattern.
- Ideal for distressing, due to its softer composition. Select this species for both distressed stained and paint finishes.

- Glazes and other specialty finishes may enhance the look of depressions in the wood from decorative distressing. Finishing materials will “hang up” in these areas, highlighting their character.
- As with all hardwoods, painted 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

- Alder boasts similar grain characteristics to Cherry, at a lower price point, and lends a comparable richness to interiors.
- A versatile species, Alder works complements any design style, from traditional to contemporary, whether painted or stained.

