Wood Options – NorCal Collection

Hardness is one of the simplest ways to distinguish the wood used for furniture. Contrary to the popular belief, hardwood is not necessarily harder and denser compared to softwood. In botanical terms, hardwood comes from flowering trees while softwood comes from conifers. Both hardwood and softwood are used for everything from structural to decorative purposes.

Hardwood comes from Angiosperms such as maple, oak, and walnut. These trees lose their leaves annually (deciduous or broad-leafed trees). As they grow slowly, hardwood has denser wood fibers (fiber tracheids and libriform fibers).

NorCal Collection
WOODS OFFERED:
Maple
Oak

Maple trees are mostly native to Asia. But they are also found in Europe, North Africa, and North America. The maple wood is sturdy, resistant to splitting, and durable. It can be wiped clean with a damp cloth, making it ideal for kitchen furniture.

- **Common Names:** Hard Maple, Sugar Maple, Rock Maple, *Acer saccharum*
- **Origin:** Midwest and eastern United States
- **Color:** Creamy white to light yellow or pale tan
- **Janka Hardness:** 1450 lbs/ft
- **Avg. Weight:** 4.6 lbs/bdft
- **General Workability:** Hard Maple is fairly easy to work with although slightly more difficult than Cherry or Walnut due to it having a higher density. Hard Maple tends to burn when machined with a high-speed cutter such as a router. Hard Maple laser engraves, turns, glues, and finishes very well.

Oak trees are native to the northern hemisphere. There are around 600 species of oak, both deciduous and evergreen. Oakwood is remarkably strong, heavy, and durable. It is also resistant to fungal attacks.

- **Common Names:** White Oak, American White Oak, Stave Oak, Fork-Leaf Oak, Ridge White Oak, *Quercus alba*
- **Origin:** Midwest and eastern United States
- **Color:** Light to medium brown commonly with an olive cast
- **Janka Hardness:** 1360 lbs/ft
- **Avg. Weight:** 3.91 lbs/bdft
- **General Workability:** White Oak is moderately hard. It cuts, glues, stains, and finishes well. White Oak has a fairly high shrinkage rate resulting in mediocre stability. White Oak works well for turning and steam-bending.