

## Wood Kitchen Cabinets

Wood is one material that will never go out of style. It offers a rich classic appeal that comes in a variety of species. Depending on your own personal taste, you can create the look and feel most desired. The species of wood that you select will have the utmost impact on your kitchen cabinet's final look.

Types of wood species include:

- **Maple (light wood) which has a tight grain, excellent for a painted finish** Also a less expensive wood to use for cabinets is maple, which is durable and is also used for countertops. The medium color of maple can fade overtime in direct sunlight, but the wood is easily finished.
- **Cherry (mid-dark) reddish hue** Cherry has a fine closed and uniform grain. Cherry is known for its minerals streaking and has pin holes and spots of gum. Cherry is known for its dark red to brown color that darkens with age. Cherry can also vary in color from white, pink, gray to green
- **Oak (light wood) strong graining** Oak cabinets are the least expensive and lend the kitchen a rustic look. They can be found in a variety of colors, but over time direct sunlight will make the colors fade. However, the cabinets are very durable, will last a long time and are easy to paint or finish.
- **Pine (light wood) soft wood with knots** Due to the knotty look of the wood, pine cabinets lend even more of a rustic quality to a kitchen. The pine smell the cabinets emit also make the wood desirable. However, the wood is not very strong, but it is also not very expensive
- **Alder (pale pinkish-brown to almost white)** Alder is characterized by its straight grain and even texture. Its reddish brown color often looks similar to Cherry. While Alder is often used to mimic Cherry, its rich tone is beautiful. And certainly warrants use for its own distinct qualities. Though it dents relatively easy, it offers a stable surface.
- **Birch (light wood)** The heartwood of Yellow Birch is red in color. While it is softer than Red Oak, it does actually have a tighter grain, which makes it very easy to finish. Red Birch is similar to Cherry in its appearance, as well as in its density and its resistance to abrasion.
- **Poplar (light wood)** Poplar wood can be painted or stained to match the appearance of many other types of wood that are considered to be more exotic. The wood is hard enough that it makes a reasonably strong wood material for the cabinet, while being soft enough to be able to accept a variety of stains that can change the natural appearance of the wood. Poplar's combination of a low price and the ability to hide its true color makes it a popular choice for those wanting to create a great looking cabinet or vanity on a budget
- **Hickory (colors ranging from white to a ruddy brown)** Hickory is not just used to smoke bacon. Hickory has a medium coloring and does not require finishing. The wood is stronger than oak, meaning the cabinets will last for an extended period. Unfortunately, this also means a more expensive price.
- **Mahogany (rich in color, reddish)** Even though it's not the most expensive, mahogany is the creme de la creme of cabinet wood. The dark colored wood will not show wear and tear, but it will darken over time. Keeping the cabinets free of moisture is important.
- **Walnut (dark brown to purplish black)** Walnut is one of the more exotic types of wood you can use for cabinets. It is durable but easy to work with and has a deep, rich color. Since it is more exotic, the wood tends to be a lot more expensive, but the results are gorgeous. Also, if you're trying to buy walnut, ensure that it's really walnut. With the price, scam artists are selling bogus walnut. Those cabinets have bogus walnut inside, and on the outside is the real walnut. One surefire way to tell you're buying real walnut cabinets is to purchase them from a custom cabinet maker.
- **Teak (rich in color) for outdoor kitchens** Teak is an extremely dense fine grained hardwood. Teak wood is generally straight grained, but occasionally wavy. One of the most commonly quoted facts about the characteristics of teak is its durability. It is resistant to rot caused by fungal decay, and the high level of resinous oil present in the timber helps to act as a natural insect repellent giving the timber very high resistance to attack by termites and other wood boring insects. The timber is resistant to water and many chemical reagents, including acids. It does not have a strong reaction when it comes in contact with metals. The life time in the open for untreated wood (no varnish, lacquer, paint or polishing) is 30 – 35 years.