

SOUTH PACIFIC TEAK SPECIES SPECIFICATION SHEET

Teak – *Tectona Grandis*

Other Names: Trade Name: South Pacific Teak

Country of Origin: Solomon Islands

Teak is a medium-sized to large hardwood, native to India, Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. It has been planted in a number of countries including the Solomon Islands due to its excellent growth and its value as a high quality, durable hardwood.

- Teak is one of the world's finest hardwoods. It has been used over the centuries for many purposes. It is a classic furniture, cabinet and joinery wood and is highly regarded due to its ability to consistently produce a high quality product. Long regarded as a prime boat-building timber, including decking and in external and internal fit-outs.
- The timber is consistent in colour; dark brown to golden-brown with fine, dark, pencil-like lines appearing occasionally on board faces. Material is of a paler brown colour when freshly sawn but darkens appreciably on exposure to light. Because it is ring porous, the texture is moderately coarse and uneven.
- Plantation material is of good quality especially in more mature stems. Its physical and mechanical properties compare favourably with natural forest wood from Thailand and Myanmar. Dependant on pruning and stage of growth, small tight knots may be observed at around 900mm intervals.
- The timber seasons slowly with little degrade. There may, however, be variations in the drying rate between individual boards. A mild schedule is recommended as collapse may occur if the kiln temperatures are too high. The timber is stable in-service.
- The timber works well with machine and hand tools. Silica (SiO₂) in the timber, however, blunts cutting edges, which must be frequently sharpened. The wood is greasy to the touch and has a characteristic 'leathery' odour. The dry sanding dust can irritate the mucous membranes and may also cause dermatitis in some persons. Workshop staff should wear face masks or respirators.

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SOUTH PACIFIC TEAK TIMBER PROPERTIES

PROPERTIES

Density	550-650 kg/m ³ @ 12% m.c
Colour	Golden-brown, darkening on exposure
Texture	Moderately coarse and uneven
Grain	Usually straight
Figure	Cathedral-like figure on back-sawn faces
Durability	Durable
Permeability	Impermeable
Lyctid susceptibility	Susceptible

WORKABILITY

General	Excellent working and finishing properties; cutter edges must be kept well sharpened due to presence of silica (SiO ₂)
Sawing	Saws well but with blunting effect
Planing	Planes very well but with blunting effect; cutter angle of 20° recommended
Blunting	Medium to high
Boring	Good characteristics; clean exit hole
Turning	Good characteristics producing share arises; smooth (oily) finish
Nailing	Nails well, good 'holding' ability
Gluing	Care required due to greasy nature of wood
Finishing	Takes an excellent high polish; sating lustre

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

Strength	SD5 (seasoned)
Structural Grade	F17 (select grade)
Toughness (Izod)	14J (seasoned), 8J (unseasoned)
Hardness (Janka)	4.6kN (seasoned), 4.8kN (unseasoned)
Max. Crushing Strength	49MPa (seasoned), 38MPa (unseasoned)
Modulus of Elasticity	11GPa (seasoned), 10Gpa (unseasoned)
Modulus of Rupture	88MPa (seasoned), 76Mpa (unseasoned)

SEASONING

Average age of Trees	25 years
General	Dries slowly with little degrade
Movement	Low
Shrinkage	Low

AVAILABILTY & PRICE

Availability	20 Year Multi Plantation Supply Contract direct with Landowners with 363,000 Mature Age Trees available.
Average Price Per Cubic Tonne	US\$2,500.00