

# Chair Details

Quality	Material/ Type	Price/Per Chair	Quantity Availability
Very Good	Cedar	5500 PKR	35
Fair Enough	Ash	2500 PKR	120+
Good	Teak	8000 PKR	47
Very Good	Pine	6200 PKR	20
Excellent	Walnut	11500 PKR	60
Good	Birch	9300 PKR	79
Outstanding	Maple	15500 PKR	21
Excellent	White Oak & Red Oak	13000 PKR	3
Very Good	Cherry	12800 PKR	93

## The Best Wood for Furniture

There are a number of factors involved with choosing the right wood for furniture. Overall, hardwoods are usually better, as the furniture must be able to stand up to regular use. “Where and how furniture will be used dictates which type of lumber should be employed,” says Miller-King. “For outdoor furniture, species such as teak and mahogany work well. For indoor furniture such as tables and chairs, hardwoods such as oak and cherry are great.” But in some cases, softer woods can be used, so long as their construction is extra sturdy. “Using readily available pine and poplar can be used with the proper joinery and finishing techniques,” Miller-King notes.

It's also worth considering what kind of detail work will be done with the furniture. As with cabinets, anything that requires detailed carving or shaping will require a softer wood. And it's also worth thinking about how well a wood will take a stain, as many pieces of wood furniture are finished with them. That's determined less by grain, and more by the cell structure of the wood — woods with larger cells (oak) tend to be more porous, and take stain better, than woods with smaller cells (pine). Some woods also have more variation in tone within a single board; those can be more difficult to stain if you want an even finish.

## **Red Oak**

Red oak is an extremely porous type of hardwood that grows in North America, particularly in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. If you look at its end grains, you'll see and feel an almost honeycomb-like texture. But don't be thrown off by its name — it's not necessarily red (though its leaves are in the autumn). It's usually a light to medium brown that trends towards a slightly pinkish side, with straight grains running through it. Red oak takes stains well, thanks to its porous nature, which makes it a popular choice for flooring, cabinetry, and furniture.

## **White Oak**

White oak is easily identified by tyloses, or “balloon-like swellings,” according to the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Science, filling its pores. Those tyloses prevent water from traveling through the pores, making white oak a great choice for any type of wood piece that might get wet, like outdoor furniture. Like red oak, however, the word “white” in its name doesn't necessarily refer to the color of its natural grain, but the color of its leaves — they have a whitish hue to their undersides. The wood, however, is light to medium brown with a slight olive tone that takes stains, particularly light-colored stains, very well. The hardwood grows across the eastern half of North America, from

Ontario, Canada, down into northern Florida, and as far west as the edge of Kansas and Oklahoma.

## **Cherry**

Cherry, which in the U.S. comes primarily from the American black cherry tree, is best known for its red to reddish-brown coloring, which deepens with age. It's a very fine-grain wood on the softer side of the spectrum for hardwoods — it has a Janka rating of just 950, which means it's not ideal for high-traffic flooring. But it's a great wood for cabinetry and furniture, as its slightly softer rating allows it to be shaped easily while still withstanding moderate use. Cherry wood grows across the eastern half of the United States, as well as through parts of Mexico.

## **Ash**

There are several types of ash, with the two main ones being white ash and black ash. Both types of ash are a softer hardwood with fairly porous end grains. The differentiators between the two are color (both are light to medium brown, but white ash is typically lighter) and ring spacing (black ash's rings are closer together than white ash's rings). Ash trees, which belong to the olive family, grow around the world, particularly in the northern parts of North America, Europe, and Asia. Their wood is relatively flexible yet durable, and it's a popular choice for flooring, cabinets, and decorative items — especially since it takes stains and paints well.

## **Maple**

Maple — specifically hard maple, which is the most common type of maple wood used in woodworking — is exceptionally strong, ranking a 1450 on the Janka scale. As such, it's frequently used for flooring, cabinetry, and furniture. (You're likely familiar with it as the source of maple syrup.) Maple has an off-white to

light-brown color that darkens over time, with stains bringing out its grains more heavily. You can identify maple by its light color paired with a very fine texture and straight grains. Because of that fine texture and tight grains, it is slightly difficult to stain evenly. Maple is most commonly found in New England in the United States and Ontario and Quebec in Canada.

## **Birch**

There are more than a dozen species of birch trees in North America alone, but it's yellow birch and white birch that are most frequently used in the home. The former is typically a light golden brown in color, and the latter is more creamy white. Both have a fairly uniform grain that has hardly noticeable growth rings; they blend right into the rest of the wood. Its pores are closed, creating a smooth texture — but it's better at absorbing stains than maple. Birch grows throughout the northern United States and southern Canada, particularly around the East Coast and the Great Lakes.

## **Teak**

Teak is prized throughout the world for its durability, not only in terms of its hardness, but also in terms of its resistance to moisture, rot, and insects. As such, it's commonly used for furniture, boat construction, and flooring, including decking. One way to identify teak is by its density — its resistant nature means the wood is very dense, protecting itself against outside invaders. Otherwise, you can note the wood by its very smooth, almost oily texture, straight grain, and golden to medium brown color. It is native to South Asia.

## **Walnut**

Walnut wood is most prized for its beautiful natural color, which is typically a chocolatey brown — it's one of the most distinguishing features of the hardwood. Its grain is mostly straight with slight waves or curls throughout. Though there are a number of walnut species, the most common one in woodworking is the

American black walnut, which grows throughout the central and eastern United States. Because of its natural beauty, it's a favorite material for furniture, as well as cabinets and veneers. With a Janka scale score of 1010, it's also durable enough to be used for flooring.

## **Pine**

With more than 100 species of pine, there's no one-size-fits-all description for the wood. Pine may be a softwood by biology, but its hardness varies per species — in some cases, pine can be as hard as oak. Color-wise, it ranges from nearly pure white to a golden yellow to a cream, which is the most common hue. Though there's such variety in pine, it can most typically be identified by its generally lighter color and a number of knots throughout its grain. It's also a lightweight wood. Because pine is a softwood, it's not best used as flooring. It is, however, a very affordable type of wood — it grows in abundance throughout the Northern Hemisphere — so it can be used somewhat frequently in cabinetry and furniture, despite its overall lack of durability.

## **Cedar**

One of the most wide-ranging tree genres in the world, cedar trees can be found from the Himalaya Mountains in Asia to the warm, rocky shores of the Mediterranean. But the ones most frequently used in woodworking in North America are the eastern and western red cedars. Unlike most woods, cedar's most identifiable trait is its distinct scent. But eastern red cedar's dark reddish-brown hue also is a key indicator that you're looking at cedar; western red cedar has a far lighter color. Cedar is technically a softwood, though it's on the harder end of them. Eastern red cedar has a Janka score of 900, though its western counterpart only has a Janka score of 350. Cedar is often used for specific types of furniture, including wardrobes and dressers, as the wood has a natural anti-fungal and antibacterial agent within it that can protect clothing. It's also popular to use as paneling on walls.