

Current Uses for Merbau (Kwila) Lumber

- Engineering: Cross arms, bridge building, piles sleepers, posts wharfing, mining and timbers.
- Construction: framing. Decking, treads, general construction
- Decorative: Furniture (especially outdoor settings), turnery, paneling, joinery, shop fitting, cabinet making, parquet flooring, carving, veneer, counter and bench tops.
- Others: Boatbuilding (especially for decking), vats, musical instruments and tool handles



Merbau Indoor Flooring

Merbau (Kwila) flooring is a hardwood ideally suited to the manufacture of indoor flooring. Not only does it have a beautiful grain and appearance, but it is regarded as one of the world's most durable timbers. The extreme hardness provides a surface that is secure from all but the most severe impacts and scratches. This ensures a wood floor that will provide many years of beautiful service.

Color

Merbau heartwood has a yellowish-brown or orange brown when first cut, turning darker with age to a brown or deep reddish brown. Sapwood is white, pale yellow or buff and sharply different from heartwood.

Grain is variable but usually interlocked or wavy, texture is coarse but even.

Durability

Class 2: Minimal shrinkage due to weathering and grain provides high resistance to splintering. Average life expectancy is 25-50 years with proper installation.* * Australian Forestry Department

Size

Merbau flooring comes in a standard 90 mm/3.5" width, 14 mm/.55" or 19mm/.75" thickness, and random lengths of two, three and four feet. The four side tongue and groove surfaces provide a floor that fits securely and neatly in almost any environment. Custom sizes are available. Please see your dealer for details.



Hardness*

Janka hardness is a test that measures the pounds of force it takes to drive a .44" diameter steel ball 1/2 its depth into wood.

USDA Fores	a service Pro	Juucis La	aboratory		
Merbau/Kwila (1925)					
	White Oak (1360)				
	Teak (1155	5)			
1000 Softer	2	000	3000	4000 Harder	

General Construction Information

Grade

Imported and domestic comparison

Imported Species	Hardness (Janka)	Dimensional Stability	Domestic Species	Hardness (Janka)	Dimensional Stability
Merbau	1925	Excellent	Ash (White)	1320	Above Average
Brazilian Cherry	2350	Average	Beech	1300	
Mahogany (Santos)	2200	Above Average	Cherry (Black)	950	Above Average
Teak (Thai/Burmese)	1000	Excellent	Heart Pine (Antique)	1225	Above Average
Honduran Mahogany	800		Maple (Sugar/Hard)	1450	Average
			Oak (Red)	1290	Average
			Oak (White)	1360	Average
			Walnut (American Black)	1010	Excellent

Seasoning

Seasons well with kiln or air drying, with little degrade and very little shrinkage or movement.

Air-dry moisture content (%)	Shrinkage (%) Green to Air-dry	Time to Kiln-Dry (months)				
	Radial	Tangential	15mm (1/2 inch)	40 mm (1-1/2 inch)		
15.0	0.9	1.6	4.5	6		

Strength Group*

S2 seasoned and SC3 unseasoned

	Test Conditions	Modulus of Elasticity (1,000 psi)	Bending Strength (psi)	Maximum Crusting Strength (psi)	Movement in Service Rating	Lab Toughness	Density/ Hardness (Janka scale)
Merbau	12% MC Kiln-dry	2,610	21,300	11,700	small	190 inch/ lbs	1925
Teak	13% MC Kiln-dry	1,390	13,310	6,770	small	116 inch/ lbs	1155

* USDA Forest Service Products Laboratory

Installation

Merbau flooring can be installed in a similar fashion to most other types of indoor hardwood flooring. Please check with your dealer regarding any special requirements. It is highly recommended to always test any stains and sealers on a small section of flooring first before applying to the actual floor to ensure good results.

Dimensions

Merbau flooring is available in a variety of lengths and widths. Please contact your dealer for details. Custom sizes are also available.

Shrinkage

Shrinkage to: 12% MC. 2.6% tangential 1.2% radial



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