

WENGE SPECIFICATIONS



Common Name(s) : Wenge

Botanical Name : *Millettia, laurentii*

DISTRIBUTION

Central Africa

QUALITY STANDARDS AND GENERAL PROPERTIES

Wenge is a uniform dark chocolate brown color that is used primarily for contrasting accent strips or in those areas desiring such bold dark look. Wenge is offered in selected straight grain for a very uniform look or in mixed graining, where the flat sawn figure yields a visible “flower” look. A related species from East Africa, Panga Panga, is also offered in the trade. It has the same graining as Wenge but with a more yellowish tone to it and never darkens as much as Wenge. **Color Range:** Wenge, once aged is very uniform in color. Selected straight grain yields the most uniform selection.

Color Change: Wenge exhibits a large degree of color change with pronounced darkening from the yellowish color it is when freshly milled to a deep chocolate/black brown when aged. This process happens within a few months.

The wood is very durable; very resistant to insects and fungal attack. Sapwood moderately permeable to preservative treatments.

TYPICAL END USE APPLICATIONS

Used principally for furniture, flooring, veneer and decorative constructions. Hard to saw and plane. Nails are difficult to drive and cannot be screwed without drilling. Glues well. Polishes well and takes a high varnish.

TECHNICAL DATA

Density At 12% moisture contact	825 kg/m ³	
Shrinkage	Tangential	0.32%
	Radial	0.20%
Durability	Heartwood	Very durable
	Sapwood	Moderately permeable
Stability	Stable	