



## WOOD & FINISH SPECIFICATIONS

The select lumber and veneer used in the creation of our cabinetry are products of nature. Each species of wood has its own distinctive colouration and grain pattern. All natural products are affected by the environment in which they grow, and wood is no exception. During growth, trees take up minerals from the soil that affects the colour of the fibres. The tree's grain characteristics and patterns are shaped by the amount of moisture it receives, the effects of wind and other elements of the weather. Because of these naturally occurring features in wood, it is impossible to guarantee that all pieces of wood within an order will match in grain pattern and colour. We believe that this variety is what makes natural products so appealing. All Kitchen Craft solid wood doors are made from natural wood which may expand and contract with the transition of climatic conditions. This may be identifiable on the joints, particularly on solid painted products, where it may exhibit itself as a hairline crack at the joints, and is not considered a defect. Each species of wood has its own particular characteristics and appeal. Lumber for our product is selected to provide a visually appealing product, based on specific criteria for each wood species. No special emphasis is made to select doors or drawer fronts to match one another, or to match grain patterns in veneers and panels.

Wood species in all finishes will exhibit color changes when exposed to different types of light and environments over time. Through this natural process, graining differences, mineral streaks and color variations can be expected in wood cabinetry. Understanding these unique variations will give you greater appreciation for the natural beauty of wood cabinetry. The effects of variations in an entire order may be different than what you visualize in a small display or an individual sample door. While we do have a series of quality control inspections designed to monitor uniformity of colour and grain, variation is inherent, due to the nature of wood. Please take a moment to discover the natural traits that are most common in your favorite wood species. We encourage you to view a sample in the finish you desire and review the wood species properties to ensure you are comfortable with these natural characteristics prior to ordering.

With continuous investments in the latest application methods and technologies, Kitchen Craft provides one of the best finishes in the industry. The finishes are formulated with synthetic materials and additives to maximize colourfastness and minimize yellowing. The various finishes offered highlight the inherent natural qualities of wood to create an appealing product. Natural variations will be present throughout the cabinetry, resulting in unique character markings that cannot be predicted or duplicated. It is because of these unique characteristics that there may exist slight differences between sample pieces, display doors and cabinet orders. Kitchen Craft cannot be held responsible for the type or degree of variations which may be present in any given order.

In flat panel door designs, the center panel is typically made from veneer plywood, and the stain may penetrate differently on the veneer panel than on the solid wood outer door frame. In raised panel door designs, the centre panel is constructed of strips of solid wood laminated together. There may be variations in the staining of these individual wood pieces. In addition, stain may appear darker on the open and end grain sections of the raised panels.

## **OAK**

Red Oak is a strong, open-grained hardwood that ranges in color from white to yellow and reddish-brown. The wood is mostly straight-grained, with a coarse texture varying from a closely knit grain to a sweeping arch pattern. Oak's natural characteristics include random pin knots and flecks.

Red Oak is used for all Oak products, with reasonable grain match on the face of the door. Occasional sound pin knots may appear on the front of the door. Although excessive mineral streaks are not allowed, some mineral streaks up to 1/4" wide by 3" long may be found on the face of the door. Lighter colour stains will show the wood and colour variations to a much greater degree.

Red Oak is an easily stained wood with varying degrees of stain penetration depending on the grain structure resulting in various degrees of darkness. The open pores of the wood will accept stain much more readily, resulting in a dramatic highlighting of the grain if the wood, particularly with darker stains. Oak tends to take stains with a fair amount of uniformity, making it an extremely popular choice for cabinetry and other millwork.

## **MAPLE**

Maple is a magnificent closed grain, strong wood that is creamy white to a slight reddish brown tinge in color. It is usually straight grained, but can be wavy or even curly. Small black mineral streaks are not uncommon.

A mixture of grades 1 and 2 White Maple with a reasonable colour match is used to produce our Maple doors. Pin and mineral streaks up to 1/4" wide by 3" long are allowed on the face of the door (no more than 3 per door). Lighter colour stains will show the grain and colour variations to a greater degree. The Natural colour may accentuate this variation even more. The darker heartwood may be found to various degrees on the back of doors.

Due to changing grain patterns in this closed grain wood any stain will often times appear blotchy and darker on end grain. The darker the stain the more pronounced this blotching will become. Maple is generally responsive to light and its overall color will change (usually towards a light yellow shade) over time, particularly when exposed to strong direct sunlight.

## **CHERRY**

Cherry is a rich closed grain wood that is reddish in color with the sapwood varying from a creamy whitish color to a light brown with a red cast, and the heartwood varying from light to a dark reddish brown. Natural characteristics of this wood include pin knots and mineral streaks.

Doors are a uniform colour match clear of sapwood. Sound pin knots are permitted on the face of the door. Mineral streaks of 1/4" wide by 3" long may be found on the face of the door. Sapwood may be found to various degrees on the back of doors.

A natural finish or a light stain will let the natural color of the wood show through. Ultraviolet light (sunlight) darkens or "mellows" cherry after a period of time to a dark reddish brown in the dark wood streaks while the lighter areas will darken to shades from yellow to brown. This mellowing is a natural occurrence for cherry and should be expected when you decide upon a cherry kitchen.

## **ALDER**

Standard grade Alder is used for doors, drawer fronts and other components which are on the face of the cabinet. This grade will have a variety of knots, ranging from tight to fairly open. Knots open right through the door will not be allowed. The knots will be randomly scattered throughout the door and insert, and could even appear right on the edges of the component. Lighter colour stains will show the grain and colour variations to a greater degree. The Natural colour may accentuate this variation even more. Premium grade Alder will be used for mouldings, which may have randomly located tight knots, but no open knots will be allowed.

Alder wood, regardless of whether it is the sapwood or the heartwood, is a whitish color when the wood is cut. However, after being cut, Alder wood species colours turn to an attractive brownish-orange. Alder wood species have fine grains and small pores, and takes well to staining.

## **GLAZED FINISHES**

Kitchen Craft uses a special technique on glazed finish applications. After the initial wood finishing process has been completed, the components receive a coating of high pigment, water based dry wipe glaze. This glaze is allowed to dry, at which time the excess glaze is wiped off the surface using various techniques and materials. The glaze remaining on the component will accentuate the profiled edges, creating a unique hand finished look. The glazed component then receives a second clear topcoat to lock in the glaze and provide additional durability.

Because the glazing process is manual, and due to varying details and profiles of materials, the coverage of the glaze may range from even and consistent to slightly varied and dramatic. It is this process which creates the unique hand finished character and charm.

Glazing will only be applied to product with edge details or profiles. All flat panels and materials will receive the base colour only.

## **RIGID THERMOFOIL**

Thermofoil doors are vinyl coated, thermally glued 3/4" MDF with a melamine backer. The vinyl is bonded to the high density core using heat and pressure, resulting in a product with excellent wear and heat resistance properties. Some mouldings and miscellaneous items use a non-melamine backed core.

Due to the nature of the material and fabrication process, the vinyl top coat may be damaged by high heat. It is recommended to allow for clearance and to install a filler or heat shield on either side of a range. Heat producing countertop appliances, such as toasters and kettles, should not be operated directly below upper cabinet doors and/or light valances.