



Choosing woods for your dream house

The kinds of wood you choose for your house will help set the mood of rooms, contributing to a feeling of warmth, lightness, depth or whatever the case may be. You'll use woods in flooring, furniture, trim, windows and other building components. And your choice of woods has a practical affect: Certain paints and wall-coverings work best with certain kinds of wood. Measure twice, cut once.

Ash: A popular wood for furnishings and ranges in color from white to reddish brown. Its grain resembles that of oak.

Beech: A strong wood good for dark or painted finishes.

Birch: Whitish to reddish brown in color, it is light and fine-grained.

Cherry: This is fine, smooth textured and always has been popular for quality furnishings.

Hackberry: While it has been used traditionally in frames for upholstered furniture, it can handle a number of finishes because of its fine grain and uniform texture.

Maple: This also has a fine texture and an attractive sheen. It ranges in color from creamy white to reddish brown.

Poplar: It has an open, clear grain that accepts paints and stains very well.

Oak: This is the most commonly used hardwood. It has a strong grain and varies in color from grayish to reddish brown.

Walnut: This is by far the wood of choice in the manufacture of fine furniture. It ranges in color from grayish yellow to brown.

Your builder and decorator can advise you about which woods will be best for what you want to accomplish with a given room. With good advice and some common sense, you can use woods to help create genuine harmony in each room and in your new home as a whole.