

Rubberwood

Atibt

Rubberwood (Azië) of hevea/seringueira (Zuid-Amerika); NEN-EN 13556: hevea (GB), hévéa (F), Hevea (D), Code HVBR

Other Names

Hévéa, para rubbertree, seringa, seringueira (Brazilië), sibi-sibi (Guyana), capi, jéve, shiringa, siringa (Peru), mapalapa (Suriname), árbol de caucho (Venezuela), parawood, Malaysian oak (Maleisië).

Botanical Name

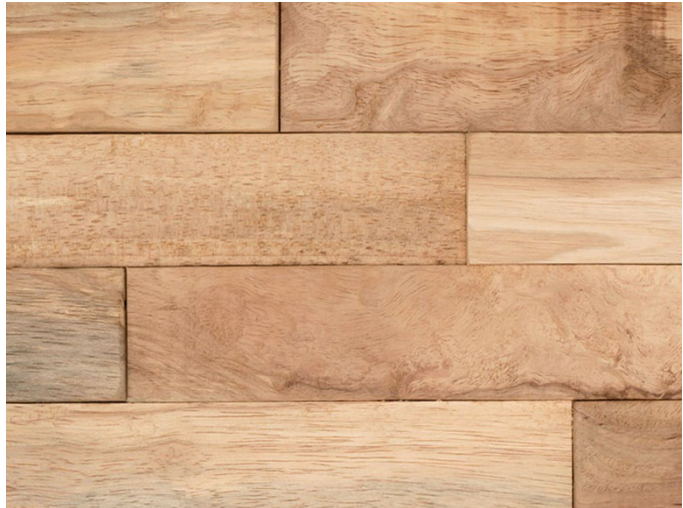
Hevea brasiliensis (Wild. Ex A. Juss.) Müll. Arg..

Family

Euphorbiaceae.

Growing area

South America (Amazon), widely planted for rubber production in Southeast Asia and West Africa.



Tree Description

Under natural conditions, the rubber tree reaches a height of 30-40 m, with a long cylindrical trunk with or without rootlets. Trees cultivated for rubber production are 0.3-0.5 m in diameter, with a 3-5 m long tapered trunk. When the rubber tree is 5-7 years old, latex is tapped for the first time. After 25-30 years, rubber production decreases and the trees are replaced, ensuring the supply of rubberwood.

Supply

Sawn (edged) timber and semi-finished products....

Wood Description

Fresh heartwood is almost white, darkening to pale yellow to straw yellow with sometimes a pink tinge. It is probably a non-core wood species.

Timber recognition

Yellow in colour, on head surface thin parenchyma bands in a network pattern, on longitudinal surface distinct stripe patterns by light hue and by marking vessels.

Nerf

Straight, sometimes slight cross-hatching.

Thread

Moderately coarse, even.

Volumetric mass

(560-)-620(-650) kg/m³ at 12% moisture content.

Shrinkage

Radial 0.9% and tangential 2.7%.



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| Drying | Fast. The tendency to deform can be avoided by stacking with a small gap and placing weights on the drying pile. Rubberwood should be dipped in a suitable agent before drying to prevent infestation by blue mould and insects. A calibration line is available for making electrical wood moisture measurements. |
| Hardness | Longitudinal plane 4350 N. |
| Machinability | Rubberwood can be cut and planed reasonably well both by hand and by machine. Latex residues present in the wood can stick to the saw. It should therefore be cleaned regularly. Occurring tensile wood can cause a woolly surface that can be finished smooth after good sanding. Rubberwood is easily finger-joined and laminated to obtain larger lengths and thicknesses. |
| Nailing and Screwing | Good. |
| Bending | Good. |
| Surface Finishing | Good. |
| Impregnability | Sapwood and heartwood 2. |
| Applications | Furniture, parquet. Imported are: toys, glued and turned objects such as dishes, bowls, salad servers and other household items. It can also be used for pulp and paper, fibreboard and chipboard. |
| Strength Class | Not known. |

Durability

Relative resistance to fungi

Heartwood class 5 (literature). Very sensitive to blackening.

Relative resistance to animal organisms

Sapwood and heartwood: drywood borers not known, termites not known marine borers not known. Susceptible to wetwood borers.