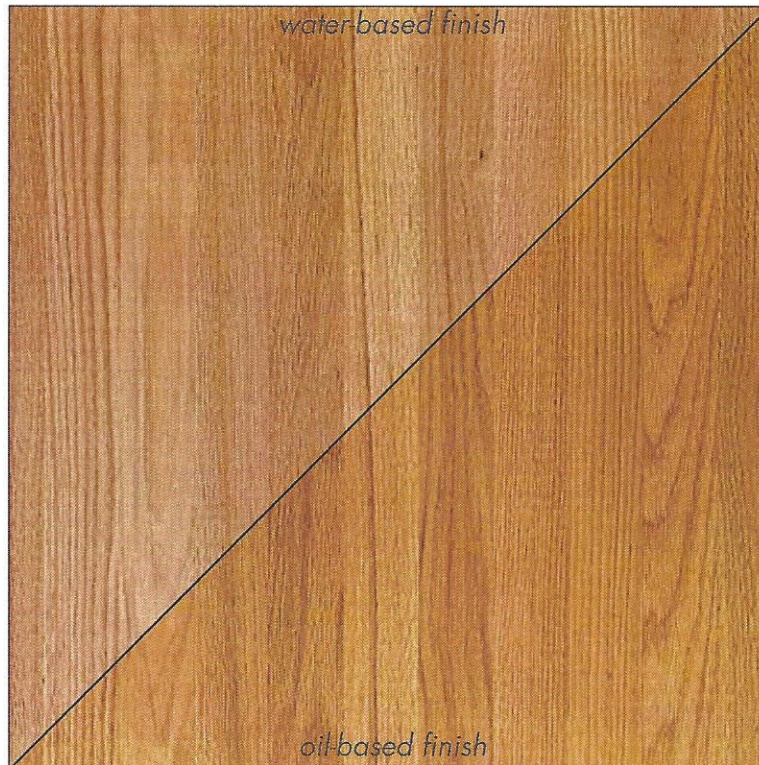


OAK, RED

Quercus spp.



Appearance

COLOR: Heartwood and sapwood are similar, with sapwood lighter in color; most pieces have a reddish tone. Slightly redder than white oak.

GRAIN: Open, slightly coarser (more porous) than white oak. Plainsawn boards have a plumed or flared grain appearance; riftsawn has a tighter grain pattern, low figuring; quartersawn has a flake pattern, sometimes called tiger rays or butterflies.

VARIATIONS WITHIN SPECIES AND GRADES:

More than 200 subspecies in North America; great variation in color and grain, depending on the origin of the wood and differences in growing seasons. Northern, Southern and Appalachian red oak all can be divided into upland and lowland species. Because they grow more slowly, upland species have a more uniform grain pattern than lowland species, with more growth rings per inch.

Properties

HARDNESS (JANKA): Northern: 1290, Southern: 1060.

DIMENSIONAL STABILITY: Northern: average, Southern: below average.

Workability

NAILING: No known problems.

SANDING: Sands satisfactorily if the correct sanding sequence is followed.

Suggested Sequence

First Cut: 50 at a 7-15 degree angle with the grain

Second Cut: 80 straight with the grain

Third Cut: 100

Hard Plate: 100

Screen: 100 or 120

FINISHING: Stains well and demonstrates strong stain contrast. Red oak generally works better than white oak for bleached floors because it is more porous, and because tannins in white oak can discolor the floor.

Origin

North America.

Availability

Easily available.