

# CHOOSING ALDER OVER EUROPEAN BEECH: A SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE FOR MANUFACTURERS



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As the leading supplier of hardwoods globally, NWH understands the critical factors that manufacturers consider when selecting the right species for their products. If you're looking for a species that offers strength, fine grain and aesthetic appeal, consider Alder over European Beech.

## Aesthetic and Design Considerations

**Consistent Color Without Ray Flecking:** European Beech exhibits ray flecking, which can be visually overwhelming and makes finishing very challenging. Alder, however, offers a cleaner, more uniform appearance, making it a versatile choice for various design aesthetics.

**Versatile Finishing:** Alder takes stains and finishes well, allowing for a wide range of design possibilities.

**Warm and Inviting Tone:** Unlike European Beech, which tends to have a pale, more neutral color, Alder has a natural warm tone that adds an inviting ambiance to any space. Its subtle grain pattern and gentle color variations contribute to a cozy, timeless aesthetic, making it an excellent choice for both traditional and contemporary designs.

## Physical and Mechanical Properties

**Exceptional Stability:** Beech boards tend to have a strong internal tension which can lead to warping, instability and twisting, creating challenges during processing. In contrast, Alder naturally remains stable with minimal movement after conditioning and drying. With limited internal stress, products maintain their form and integrity.

**Flatter and Straighter:** Alder reduces the risk of warping, ensuring consistent quality and less waste.



Crystal Cabinets,  
designed by Nor-Son Inc.

Alder

European Beech



Alder



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### Processing and Machining Benefits

**Workability:**

Alder processes and machines more efficiently, providing a smoother experience for manufacturers and better end results for finished products.

**Less Tool Wear:**

Due to its favorable properties, Alder tends to cause less wear on tools compared to European Beech, extending the life of your equipment.

### Economic Advantages

**Cost-Effective and Predictable Pricing:**

Locally sourced in the U.S., Alder reduces transportation costs and avoids shipping delays commonly seen with imports. Its consistent availability ensures quick procurement and stable pricing, making it a more affordable and predictable option than imported European Beech, even in fluctuating market conditions.

### Sustainability

**Eco-Friendly Choice:**

Choosing Alder supports sustainable American forestry and reduces the environmental impact of long-distance transportation. With concerns about the long-term availability of European Beech due to climate challenges, Alder offers a resilient and sustainable alternative.

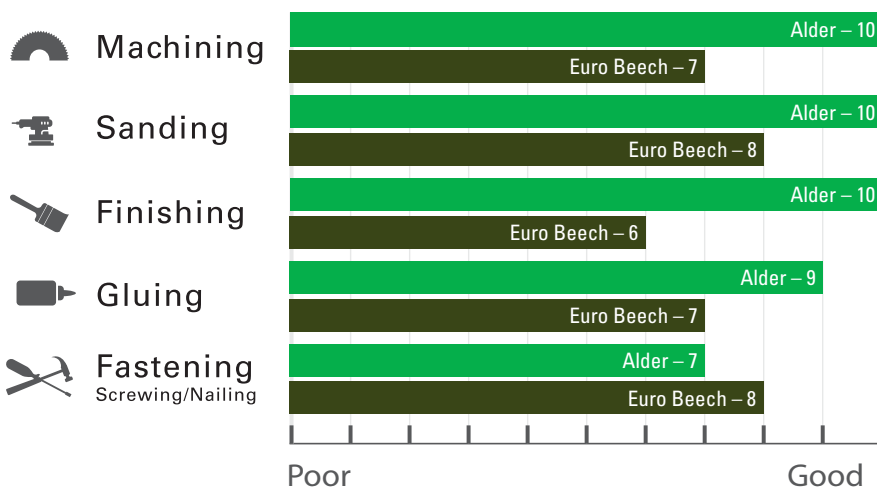
## Now's the Time to Choose Alder.

### Species Comparison Data

Lumber (12% Moisture Content)	Weight per bdf <sup>3</sup>	Specific Gravity (Density)	Hardness (Janka)	Bending Strength (MOR)	Bending Stiffness (MOE)	Dimensional Movement (Shrinkage)	
						R (%)	T (%)
<b>Alder</b>	2.45	.41	590	9800	1380	4.4	7.3
<b>Euro Beech</b>	3.75	.53	1450	15970	2075	5.8	11.7

Source - Wood Database

### Species Comparison Chart



### Alder Grades at a Glance

**Alder Upper Grades**

For longer/wider clear cuttings used in case goods, cabinets, furniture and millwork.

**Alder Mid Grades**

Used when clear shorter/narrower pieces are needed. Stiles and rails, face frames, drawer fronts.

**Alder Low Grades**

Good for short narrow pieces that can be finger jointed into panels or used for rustic applications.