# CHOOSING ALDER OVER EUROPEAN BEECH:

## A SUPERIOR ALTERNATIVE FOR MANUFACTURERS

NWH
Simple. Natural. Hardwoods.

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 excessive ray flecking, which can be visually overwhelming and makes finishing a challenge. 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 Euro Beech, Alder features a neutral, natural warm tone that adds an inviting ambiance to any space. Its subtle grain pattern and gentle color variations contribute to a warm, 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.




*Alder*

THE ALDER AUTHORITY SINCE 1967



© Crystal Cabinets



Alder



European Beech

**Learn More**

nwh.com/alder

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# ALDER COMPARED TO EUROPEAN BEECH

**Now's the Time to Choose Alder.**

## Processing and Machining Benefits

**Workability:**
Alder processes and machines more efficiently, providing a smoother process 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 knives and blades.

## Economic Advantages

**Cost-Effective and Predictable Pricing:**
Locally sourced and produced in the U.S., Alder offers transportation and supply advantages over imported European Beech. More volume can be loaded on each truck, reducing freight costs, while domestic sourcing eliminates tariff risk and import-related shipping delays. Steady availability also provides more consistent procurement and pricing, making Alder a reliable and cost-effective alternative even in fluctuating market conditions.

## Sustainability

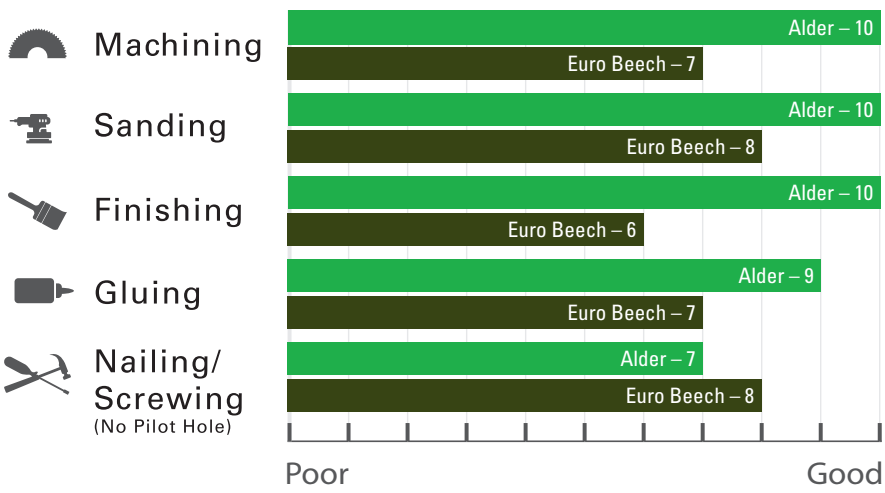
**Eco-Friendly Choice:**
Choosing American Alder supports sustainable U.S. forestry, rural communities, and American manufacturing while reducing the environmental impact of long-distance transportation. Alder offers a reliable, domestically sourced alternative to European Beech, helping reduce dependence on imported materials while supporting healthy, productive forests and the communities that depend on them.

## Mechanical Properties Comparison

| **Lumber** (12% Moisture Content) | **Weight** per bdft | **Specific Gravity** (Density) | **Hardness** (Janka) | **Bending Strength** (MOR) | **Bending Stiffness** (million psi) (MOE) | **Dimensional Movement** (Shrinkage) | | **T/R Ratio** (Lower Ratio = Greater Stability) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | R (%) | T (%) | |
| **Alder** | 2.45 | .41 | 590 | 9800 | 1.380 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 1.7 |
| **Euro Beech** | 3.75 | .53 | 1450 | 15970 | 2.075 | 5.8 | 11.7 | 2.0 |

*Source - Wood Database*

## Working Properties Comparison




## Alder Grades at a Glance

**Upper Grades (SUP)**
For longer/wider clear cuttings used in casegoods, cabinets, furniture and millwork.

**Mid Grades (CAB)**
Used when clear shorter/narrower pieces are needed. Stiles and rails, face frames, drawer fronts.

**Low Grades (COM#2)**
Good for short narrow pieces that can be finger jointed into panels or used for rustic applications.

**Appearance Grade (Rustic)**
Pulled for the finished knotty appearance of cabinets, furniture and millwork.