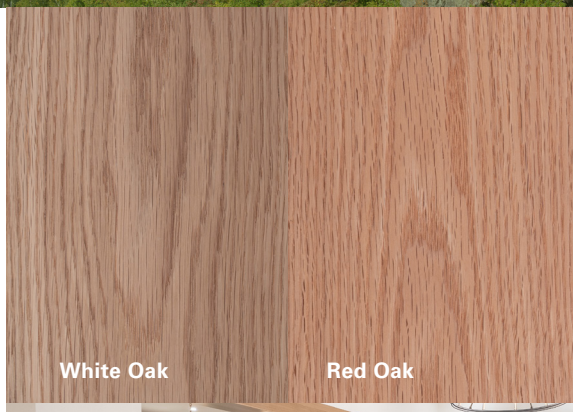
Simple. Natural. Hardwoods.

RED OAK VS WHITE OAK

KNOW WHAT EACH BRINGS TO THE TABLE

White Oak and Red Oak account for over one-third of America's standing hardwood timber volume, making them two of the nation's most abundant and versatile hardwoods. Both offer strength, beauty and proven performance, but differences in color, grain, hardness and working characteristics make each better suited to certain applications. Understanding those differences helps you choose the right Oak for the job.







Aesthetic and Design Considerations

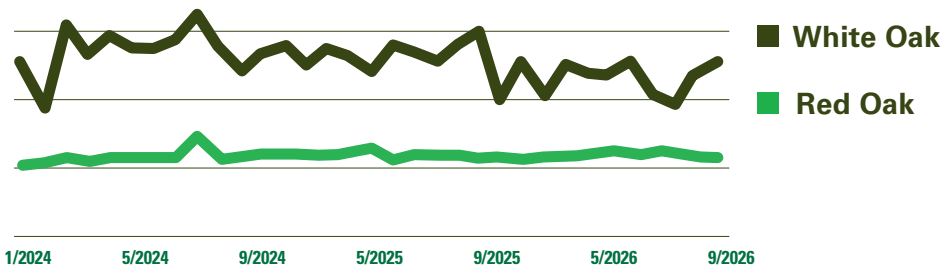
Color & Tone:
White Oak ranges from light sapwood to medium brown heartwood, giving it a natural, versatile palette. Red Oak ranges from light creamy pink to warm reddish-brown for a distinctly warmer appearance.

Grain & Character:
Both Oaks feature distinctive grain, but with different visual character. White Oak is known for its strong grain texture and distinctive ray flecking, while Red Oak offers a more pronounced, high-contrast grain.

Design Versatility:
Red Oak's pronounced grain and excellent staining qualities give it flexibility across a wide range of styles and finishes. White Oak's distinctive grain and versatile color work across traditional and modern designs.

Price Trends

NWH 4/4 Upper Grade



Learn More

nwh.com/red-oak-vs-white-oak

Simple. Natural. Hardwoods.

WHITE OAK COMPARED TO RED OAK



White Oak



Red Oak

Machining: Both species machine well, with Red Oak earning slightly higher marks for machinability. White Oak is denser and harder, providing added durability and wear resistance.

Finishing: Both species finish well, offering plenty of flexibility across applications. Red Oak is particularly well known for its excellent staining qualities, allowing its natural grain to take on a wide range of looks.

Durability: White Oak's natural moisture and decay resistance makes it well suited to both interior and exterior applications when properly sealed and maintained. Red Oak offers excellent hardness and wear resistance, making it a durable choice for furniture, flooring and other interior applications.

Certifications: Both are available as PEFC certified, FSC Mix Credit, FSC Controlled Wood or PEFC Controlled Sources.

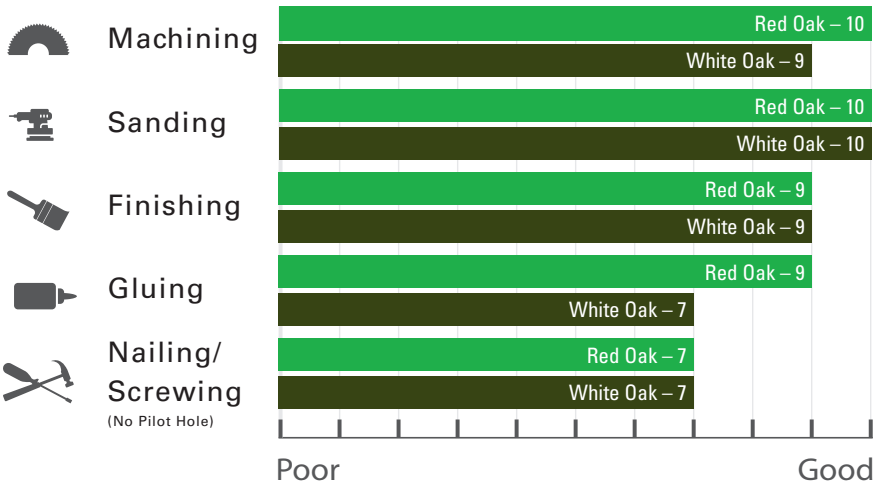
Applications	White Oak	Red Oak
Furniture	✓	✓
Cabinetry	✓	✓
Flooring	✓	✓
Millwork	✓	✓
Marine Uses	✓	
Whiskey Barrels	✓	

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 (%)	
Red Oak (Northern)	3.64	.63	1220	14380	1.761	4.0	8.6	2.2
White Oak (Eastern)	3.94	.68	1350	14380	1.762	4.4	8.8	2.0

Source: Wood Database

Working Properties Comparison



Grades at a Glance

Upper Grades (FAS, SUP, Prime)
For longer/wider clear cuttings used in millwork, doors, casegoods.

Mid Grades (CAB, Cabinet, #1)
Used for clear face with sound back applications, including face frames, cabinet doors, furniture.

Low Grades (2A)
Good for short narrow pieces that can be finger jointed into picture frames, toys, flooring.

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

Not all grades are available in both species and regions.