



Natural Birch

It is as difficult to adequately describe the natural beauty and character of wood as it is to describe an original painting in oil. In fact, this is more than a passing comparison. A tree and a painting are both originals, and each is the only one of its kind.

veneer summary table flat cut (plain sliced)

Slicing is done parallel to a line through the center of the log. Cathedral and straight grained patterns result. The individual pieces of veneer are kept in the order they are sliced, permitting a natural grain progression when assembled as veneer faces.

Species	Birch	NATURAL CHARACTERISTICS	
Cut	Plain sliced	Small conspicuous burls and pin knots – Combined average number	1 per 2.69 sq. ft. (0.25 sq. m)
Grade description	A	Conspicuous burls – Maximum size	3/8" (9.5 mm)
COLOR AND MATCHING (white)		Conspicuous pin knots – Average number	1 per 8 sq. ft. (0.74 sq. m)
Sapwood	Yes	Maximum size: dark part	1/8" (3 mm)
Heartwood	Yes	Maximum size: total	1/4" (6 mm)
Color streaks or spots	Yes	Scattered sound and repaired knots – Combined average number	No
Color variation	Yes	Maximum size – Sound	No
Sharp color contrasts at joints	No	Maximum size – Repaired	No
TYPE OF MATCHING		Average number – Repaired	No
Book matched	Yes	Mineral Streaks	Slight
Slip matched	Specify	Bark pockets	No
Random matched	Specify	Worm tracks	Slight
Nominal minimum width of face components	Plain sliced 4" (102 mm)	Vine Marks	Slight
ADAPTED FROM HPVA LATEST EDITION.		Cross bars	Slight
MANUFACTURING CHARACTERISTICS			
		Rough cut	No
		Blended repaired tapering hairline splits	Two 1/16" x 6" (1.6 mm x 152 mm)
		Repairs	Small Blending



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Book and running match

Quarter cut



MATCHING BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL PIECES OF VENEER

Leaf matching

The way in which the individual cuts are placed next to each other during the fabrication of the veneer face is the next factor affecting the appearance of the doors. The type of match at the joint line must be specified. Natural variations in the leaves and the progression of the grain pattern across the face are the hallmarks of real wood doors.

BOOK MATCH



The most commonly used match in the industry. Every other piece of veneer is turned over so adjacent pieces are opened like two adjacent pages in a book. The veneer joints match and create a mirrored image pattern at the joint line, yielding a maximum continuity of grain. Book matching is used with rotary, plain sliced, quarter, rift cut or comb grain veneers.

Barber pole effect in book match

Because the "tight" and "loose" faces alternate in adjacent pieces of veneer, they may accept stain differently, and this may result in a noticeable color variation called barber poling.

Plain sliced and rotary cut natural birch

"Natural", when referring to birch face veneer, indicates that the face may contain both heartwood (the red portion of the log) and sapwood (the white portion) in unrestricted amounts. Thus, natural birch faces may vary from all white to all dark, or any combination of white and dark. Also, the resulting grain configuration from book matched plain sliced natural birch may appear as alternating strips of white and dark veneer. If you prefer a light colored wood, specify white birch (all sapwood). If you want dark colored wood, specify red birch (all heartwood). However, availability is more restricted. The grain pattern of rotary cut birch presents a more bold, random appearance than that of plain sliced veneer. Rotary cut natural veneers present the same general characteristics in terms of color as their plain sliced brethren. Again, the amount of sapwood and heartwood will determine the final appearance.

RUNNING MATCH

Non-symmetrical appearance in any single door face. Veneer pieces of unequal width. Each face is assembled from as many veneer pieces as necessary.

ASSEMBLY OF SPLICED VENEER ON A FACE

The type of "assembly match" must be specified to obtain a desired appearance. Any sequence matching from opening to opening must be specified.

