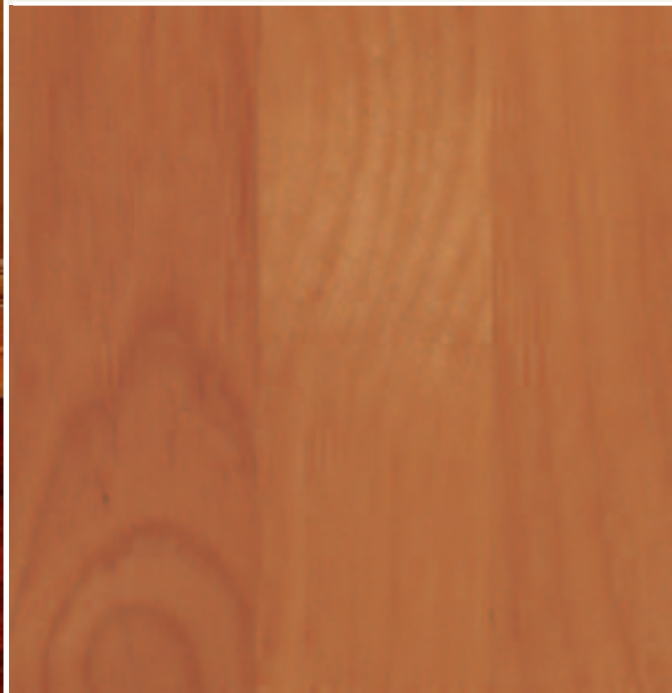


Alder & Rustic Alder



Alder, also known as Red Alder, is grown primarily in the Pacific Northwest. The name Red Alder comes from the fact that the inner bark turns reddish-orange when exposed to air. Red Alder is the only commercial species of Alder in North America and is the largest of the American Alders. One of the more “soft” hardwoods, Alder is a plentiful, fast-growing species. We offer Alder and Rustic Alder as standard wood species in both our framed and frameless cabinetry lines.





Alder is often paired with our standard and Artisan Distressing packages. Here, Rustic Alder is shown with Artisan 2 Distressing and Glaze.

Characteristics of Alder

Alder is a moderately light and slightly soft hardwood, with a smooth surface and very little grain showing. Alder may display pin knots, grain "fuzz" and mineral streaks. Colors may vary from almost white to tan and pale, pinkish brown, with differences being accentuated when clear, light stain colors are used.

The straight, close grain and fine, even texture of Alder has made it a popular choice for fine cabinetry and furniture. The

softer nature of Alder makes it receptive to a variety of stains and finishes and Alder does not evolve in color or darken when exposed to light or heat as other woods do. Alder offers the look of many fine hardwoods at a value price point and is often used to imitate more costly woods.

The traditional wood used in the Pacific Northwest to make smoked salmon, Alder is also used for broom and brush handles, textile rollers, guitars and toys.



Rustic Alder

With Rustic Alder, there will be a random blend of knots, burls (swirling grain clusters) and other natural characteristics on the doors and drawer fronts. As with all Rustic styling, no single door or drawer front will perfectly match another, and each has its own characteristics.

Finish Enhancements such as Glazing, Highlighting and Distressing are a popular way to individualize a home's cabinetry. The Artisan Distressing and Finish Enhancements pages in the "Beyond the Basics" section of our web site offer explanations and examples of our various techniques.