

# ELITE

Elite Kitchens of the Hudson Valley, Inc.

## Characteristics of Wood Species

There is nothing more beautiful than solid wood. No two trees are exactly alike, allowing each piece of furniture to have its own individual appearance and beauty. The distinct beauty of wood cabinets is derived from the grain pattern. The process of staining and finishing helps to enhance, blend or minimize this grain and bring out the true beauty of the wood used to make your cabinets.

- **Alder** Its appearance is often similar to that of maple, birch and cherry. It is uniform in texture with occasional mineral streaks and small knots adding to the unique character of the wood.
- **Beech** Varies in color from white to dark reddish brown with a close uniform texture similar to Maple.
- **Cherry** The beautiful markings and rich luster of cherry have long been desired by woodworkers and homeowners alike. These markings can be seen as occasional clusters of tiny pin knots, mineral streaks and small darker streaks of gum. Cherry darkens and gains more red or copper hue when exposed to light. Different elements of cherry, its lighter sapwood and darker heartwood, will darken and change hue independently and will be more noticeable in lighter stains. It may show variations in color from white, red, black or green in some areas.
- **Hickory** Color and shade variations of this wood are dramatic, ranging from off-white to charcoal. Its grain pattern is strong, with varied mineral streaks, knots and pinholes. Typical degrees of variance are often not present in a single sample.
- **Maple** Variations in the wood will also appear producing a birds eye, curly grain or fiddleback pattern. Mineral streaks are common and will vary in size and quantity from piece to piece. They are a natural characteristic of maple and will appear darker when stained.
- **Oak** The grain will vary from a closely knit grain to a sweeping arch pattern. Occasional mineral streaks are common in oak.
- **Quarter-Sawn Oak** This wood is known for its uniform straight grain and exhibits a beautiful grain texture.
- **Rustic/Knotty** Most woods are available in Rustic (or knotty) variations, with more prominent and typically larger knots and mineral streaks.

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EliteKitchens.org

*Creating Kitchens for the Way You Live*

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