



Firestone Natural Rubber Company has been operating a rubber tree farm in Liberia, West Africa since 1926 for the production of block natural rubber and latex. Now, as part of our sustainability initiative, FSNR is producing Hevea wood from end-of-life-cycle trees. This brochure gives a brief introduction to the uses, grades and typical properties of Hevea wood.

Contact our Sales Representative for more information.



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**Firestone**  
NATURAL RUBBER COMPANY

**Hevea Wood**

**ENVIRONMENTALLY  
FRIENDLY**

**Supplying Hevea Wood  
to the world in a  
sustainable way.**



# Hevea Wood

## HEVEA WOOD

Hevea wood is a hardwood that is made from the natural rubber producing Hevea brasiliensis tree. Hevea is grown in tropical locations, usually located within 15° latitude north or south of the equator.

Its principal requirements are an average annual temperature of 80° F and an average rainfall of 80 inches per year. Regions where Hevea trees are found include: tropical America (i.e. Brazil, which is the native home of Hevea); India, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia (Malaysia and Indonesia); and in tropical Africa (Liberia and the Congo for instance), where they are grown on tree farms for rubber production. Firestone Natural Rubber Company operates what is considered to be the largest rubber tree farm in the world in Liberia, with 120,000 acres.

The Hevea tree is grown primarily for the natural rubber it produces. After reaching maturity, the tree will produce natural rubber for approximately 28 years. The rubber latex is obtained from a thin layer in-between the bark and cambium; rubber is not contained in the heartwood or sapwood. Once production wanes, the tree is felled to make room for new plantings.

## NOMENCLATURE

Hevea wood is one of the common names for the wood from the Hevea brasiliensis tree (botanical genus species name). Other common names are rubberwood, parawood, white teak, and Malaysian oak. The name rubberwood conjures some false impressions; Hevea wood does not contain rubber, it is not soft like rubber and it does not bounce. It is a common misconception that the Hevea tree is in the same family as maple. The misunderstanding may result from the fact that Hevea wood is comparable to maple in color, hardness and its ability to take a stain.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Hevea wood is considered to be one of the most environmentally-friendly woods with only end-of-life cycle trees being processed in our sawmill. The utilization of Hevea trees for lumber keeps the carbon stores in the wood, thereby avoiding an increase to the carbon load in the atmosphere. And, since new plantings replace the felled trees, carbon is stored as the new trees grow and are harvested for their rubber, and then harvested for their wood when the rubber production is "tapped" out.

## USES

Hevea wood is used in the manufacture of interior finishing, furniture, cabinets, flooring, and staircase, door and window components to name a few.

## GRADES

Firestone Hevea wood is kiln dried to a moisture content of 8%. Hevea wood is available rough-sawn, planed and sanded, finger-jointed, and in glued panels.

## TYPICAL PROPERTIES

### Appearance:

Pale cream to light brown

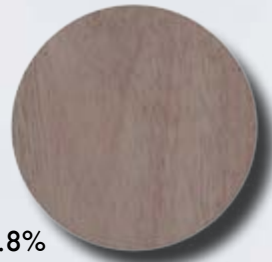
### Texture:

Moderately coarse grain, mostly straight, even.

**Density:** 560-640 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

**Tangential shrinkage:** 0.8%

**Hardness:** 975 lbs force



**Supplying Hevea Wood to America in a sustainable way.**