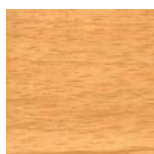


5 Best and Worst Imported Timbers in Australia

Best

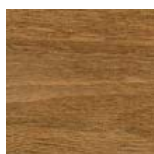
✓ Rubberwood



Why Good Wood:

- ▶ mostly from old rubber plantations in Sth East Asia so not destroying rainforest
- ▶ excellent for furniture and a good substitute for Ramin

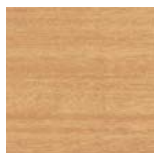
✓ FSC or Ecotimber Vitex (New Guinea Teak)



Why Good Wood:

- ▶ many sources from small-scale community forestry in Solomon Is and PNG
- ▶ good substitute for Merbau

✓ FSC plantation Eucalypt



Why Good Wood:

- ▶ from established plantations in Sth Africa, Brazil, PNG, Solomon Is and Australia
- ▶ good medium species for outdoor furniture

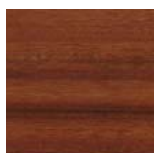
✓ Bamboo



Why Good Wood:

- ▶ mainly from secondary or already degraded forests
- ▶ makes an excellent and adaptable building material

✓ FSC or Ecotimber Taun



Why Good Wood:

- ▶ many sources come from small-scale community forestry in the Solomon Is and PNG
- ▶ a fast growing tree that is easy to regenerate. Is a good medium species for furniture and joinery



Worst

✗ Burmese Teak



Why high risk:

- ▶ logging profits from this timber are used to finance the military and the suppression of indigenous Burmese tribes

✗ African Mahogany (including Sapele)



Why high risk:

- ▶ mostly illegal and destructive logged from forests containing chimpanzees and elephants

✗ Merbau/ Kwila



Why high risk:

- ▶ mostly from PNG and Indonesia where it is illegally and destructively logged to the point of extinction
- ▶ this is a slow growing, difficult to regenerate tree and is listed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as 'vulnerable'

✗ Ramin



Why high risk:

- ▶ mostly from swamp forests containing tigers, orangutans and deep peat (critical in the mitigation of climate change)
- ▶ listed with CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) so trade is restricted

✗ Meranti



Why high risk:

- ▶ mostly from illegal and destructive logging in Indonesia and the orangutan forests in Borneo
- ▶ more than half of the 200 different tree species that are sold as Meranti are listed as 'endangered' by the IUCN