

• TIMBER SPECIES DATASHEET •

EBONY

(Diospyros Ebenum)



★ Wood Type	Hardwood
★ Durability	Class 1 – Very durable
★ Average Service Life	25+ years (without treatment)
★ Treatability	Moderately difficult
★ Moisture Movement	Low
★ Density (mean, Kg/m³)	1000–1200
★ Texture	Fine and even
★ Use(s)	High-end Furniture, Musical Instruments, Sculptures
★ Colour(s)	Deep black, dark brown, or dark gray

Environmental

Ebony wood (Diospyros spp.) is not typically listed on the IUCN Red List. However, responsible sourcing is crucial to prevent overharvesting, as ebony wood is highly valued and can be at risk due to illegal logging.

Distribution

Ebony wood is native to various parts of the world, including Africa, India, and Southeast Asia. It is highly sought after for its dark, dense timber, and different species are found in these regions.

The Tree

Ebony trees are relatively small, reaching heights of up to 10–15 meters. They have a dense, dark heartwood and produce simple, alternate leaves. Ebony trees are primarily known for their valuable timber, which is sought after for its distinctive color and quality.

The Timber

Ebony wood is famous for its dark color, often deep black, with a fine, even texture and a straight to interlocked grain. The wood is extremely dense and heavy, making it one of the hardest and most valuable woods in the world.

Drying

Ebony wood can be challenging to dry due to its density, and there is a risk of checking and warping. Careful drying practices are essential to minimize these issues.

Strength

Ebony wood is renowned for its exceptional strength and durability. It is one of the hardest and most stable woods available, making it suitable for high-end applications.

Working Qualities

Ebony wood is difficult to work with due to its density, which can result in blunting of tools. However, with sharp tools and proper techniques, it can be machined, sanded, and finished to achieve an incredibly polished and lustrous surface. Ebony wood is highly prized for its luxurious appearance.



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