

• TIMBER SPECIES DATASHEET •

IROKO

(*Milicia Excelsa*)



★ Wood Type	Hardwood
★ Durability	Class 1
★ Average Service Life	25+ Years
★ Treatability	Extremely Difficult
★ Moisture Movement	Stable
★ Density (mean, Kg/m ³)	660
★ Texture	Fine
★ Use(s)	Cladding, Flooring, Heavy Structural, Decking
★ Colour(s)	Yellow to Golden - Brown

Environmental

Iroko, or *Milicia excelsa*, is not listed on the IUCN Red List. However, it's essential to be aware that the conservation status of tree species may vary, so checking with suppliers for certification is advisable.

The Tree

Iroko is a sizable tree that can reach heights of 24.0 to 36.0 meters with diameters ranging from 0.5 to 0.75 meters, often larger in optimal conditions. The boles are typically clean, cylindrical, & 18.0 to 24.0 meters long.

Strength

Iroko wood shares similarities in strength with greenheart, especially in tension across the grain and side hardness, where Iroko excels. Air-dried Iroko is significantly stronger than green wood, with minor reductions in cleavage resistance and tensile strength across the grain. In general, Iroko surpasses white oak in most properties, except cleavage resistance.

Working Qualities

Working with Iroko can be challenging due to its heavy, hard, and tough nature. Nevertheless, with sharp tools, it saws and bores cleanly. When the grain is not severely interlocked, it planes and finishes to a smooth surface. Iroko accepts a high polish but tends to have poor adhesive qualities.

Distribution

Naturally distributed across West Africa, Iroko is found in countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast. It's a valuable timber tree in the region and is also cultivated in some areas.

Drying

Despite its density, Iroko is relatively manageable to dry. Rapid drying may lead to surface checking, but moderating the drying rate reduces this tendency. Thicker sections are prone to casehardening.

The Timber

Iroko's heartwood exhibits a yellow to golden-brown color with dark brown streaks when freshly cut, gradually changing to a more consistent yellowish-brown after drying. The sapwood, about 50mm wide, is distinguishable from the heartwood and is also yellowish-brown. The wood has a smooth texture with a waxy or oily feel and often features an irregular, sometimes interlocked grain. It is known for its exceptional hardness and weight.



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