

# Design & Manufacture

## Homework 8

### Softwood

Coniferous trees (trees that keep their needle-like leaves throughout the year) provide softwood. They can grow quickly with straight trunks. They are often grown in plantations and are replaced when they are cut down. The wood is quite cheap and is used in the building industry for windows and doors etc. When the trunk is converted the waste is used for making paper and card.

### Choosing Softwood

NAME	PROPERTIES	USES	COST
Scots Pine (Deal)	Straight grained, but knotty, quite strong and easy to work	Building construction. When used outside it needs protection. Takes paint well.	Low
Parana Pine	Straight grained with few knots, quite strong and durable, warps easily	High quality interior construction and furniture	High
Spruce (white-wood)	Quite strong, with small knots, resistant to splitting but not durable	Fitted furniture, e.g. kitchen cabinets.	Low
Cedar	Straight grained that is knot free. Very light in weight. Very durable, inside and outside. Quite soft.	Used outside for shed construction and quality fencing.	High



### Hardwood

Deciduous trees (trees that lose their large leaves every winter) provide hardwood. They grow slowly and sometimes have twisted trunks. They are often not replaced when cut down. The wood is costly and is used for fine furniture and wooden toys, etc.

### Choosing Hardwood

NAME	PROPERTIES	USES	COST
Ash	Light in colour, flexible and tough, steam bends well, varnishes well.	Tool handles, cricket bat handles, ladders, veneers.	Med
Beech	Mid-brown colour, hard, strong and tough, tends to warp, steam bends well.	High quality furniture, toys, tool handles, veneers	Med
Oak	Light brown, hard, tough, heavy and durable outside. Gets harder with age.	High quality furniture, garden furniture, boat building, veneers	High
Mahogany	Red in colour, medium weight, quite strong, durable inside, warps easily	High quality furniture, shop furniture, boat fittings, veneers.	High



The difference between softwood and hardwood is a biological difference, not one of softness and hardness. The softest wood is Balsa - it is a hardwood!

# Questions

What type of trees do softwoods come from?

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What type of trees do Hardwoods come from?

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Which softwood might you choose to make a dog Kennel from?

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Which hardwood might you choose to make a child's toy trunk?

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