

Statements from Several Different Cabinet Manufacturers Regarding Quarter Sawn and Rift Cut White Oak

Quarter Sawn White Oak is considered the ideal choice for Mission design themes. This hard, heavy wood exhibits a distinctive, prominent grain pattern. ***Please be aware that some other cabinetry brands will include cheaper non-quartersawn components with their quartersawn doors. This manufacturer uses genuine quartersawn white oak for face frames, finished end panels, and coordinating elements like moldings on all quartersawn cabinetry orders.***

Quarter Sawn White Oak: As a result of the cut known as quarter sawn, this straight-grain wood displays a dramatic pattern sometimes called “ribbon and flake”. It varies in color from white to light tan, medium brown, or a pale yellow-brown with a pinkish tinge. It has a medium to coarse texture with small knots, mineral deposits, or worm holes occasionally present.

Rift Cut White Oak can be compared to standard grade White Oak with the only difference being the way it is cut. Each piece has a thin pencil-line or combed look, otherwise known as a straight grain look. It is typical that a small percentage of panel staves and stile & rail parts will include a small portion of Quarter Sawn character, sometimes resulting in light rays / flakes being visible in those parts. It varies in color from white to light tan, medium brown, or a pale yellow-brown with a pinkish tinge. It has a medium to coarse texture with small knots, mineral deposits, or worm holes occasionally present.

White Oak is a hard and heavy wood with a medium bending and crushing strength, low in stiffness, but very good in steam-bending. Features great wear-resistance. The sapwood is light in color whereas the heartwood is light to dark brown, color ranges from straw-like tans to varying shades of browns to pale yellow. It is mostly a straight grained wood with medium to coarse texture. White oak has more figure than red oak due to the longer rays. ***The natural characteristics of white oak are not considered a manufacturing defect and are not reasons for product replacement.***

Light stain on White Oak is prone to color variations, resulting in light and dark sections in the cabinetry. This variation can be very pronounced.

Color variation is expected and more apparent with light/natural stains, including visible sapwood that can appear nearly white next to tan/brown heartwood. Lighter stains expose more natural character/grain—great for a natural aesthetic, but buyers should expect visible variation panel-to-panel and door-to-door.