

Silver Wattle: *Acacia dealbata*

The Timber Silver Wattle is a striking light brown to subtle pink timber whose obvious growth rings create an appealing and attractive figure. Closely related to Blackwood, Silver Wattle provides a counterpoint to this widely used but darker species.

Silver Wattle's lighter tones mean it is increasingly in demand for furniture. Its very distinct rings can create a striped pattern when backsawn that makes it a fine timber for furniture designers and manufacturers.

Available in both solid and veneer, the wood is fairly tough. When planed and dressed, it produces a very smooth surface for furniture and polishes well.

The Resource Silver Wattle is a distinctive tree widely distributed throughout eucalypt forests and woodlands in eastern Australia. It's easily identified by its silvery blue-green feathery foliage and yellow flowers during spring. In the past it has been more valued for horticultural uses than for its timber.

The tree grows very quickly and can reach heights up to 30m or more with a diameter of up to 75cm when mature. When grown in the open it develops a spreading habit and may form a crown 15m across. It regenerates readily after fire from soil-stored seed or root suckers.

In Tasmania, Silver Wattle occurs as the dominant shrub in dry eucalypt forests and woodlands. It can also be found as a tall understorey species in wet eucalypt forests. Silver Wattle is not very long lived and dies out as the eucalypt over-storey matures. Supplies are readily available from stands of regrowth which will be harvested on rotations between 70 and 90 years.





Silver Wattle properties

Colour	Light brown to pink.
Grain	Grain is usually straight. Growth rings are conspicuous.
Texture	Uniform and porous.
Durability	Silver Wattle is not included in AS 5604-2005 Timber - Natural durability ratings. It has good durability for decorative, architectural and structural applications internally but is not recommended for external use.
Lyctid susceptibility	Sapwood is susceptible.
Sizes	Limited sizes are currently available commercially.
Density	Approximately 650kg/m ³ at 12% moisture content. Unseasoned density approximately 800kg/m ³ .
Shrinkage (green to 12% MC)	Approximately 2% radial, 5% tangential.
Strength groups	Seasoned; provisionally SD5, unseasoned S4.
Joint group	Unseasoned J4, seasoned JD4.
Toughness (Izod)	14J unseasoned, 19J seasoned.
Hardness (Janka)	4kN unseasoned, 5.1kN seasoned.

Fire hazard properties: flooring (AS ISO 9239.1)

Critical radiant heat flux	> 4.5kW/m ²
Smoke development rate	< 750%.min

Fire hazard properties: wall and ceiling lining (AS/NZ 3837)

Material group no.	3
Average extinction area	< 250m ² /kg

Workability

General	Silver Wattle is a highly resilient timber easy to work with both machine and hand tools.
Blunting	Low.
Sawing	Saws easily with low feeding forces.
Planing	Excellent planing characteristics with the grain.
Moulding	Excellent moulding timber, with sharp edges easily being achieved and maintained.
Boring	Excellent characteristics. Leaves a clean, accurate hole.
Rebating + mortising	Generally produces excellent results.
Turning	Turns easily with sharp arrises.
Nailing	Splits readily; pre-drilling is often necessary.
Gluing	Glues satisfactorily with most common adhesives.
Bending	An excellent bending timber.
Finishing	Readily polished to a smooth, lustrous surface. Finishes adhere easily to the material.

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