

Why Hardwood?

As local authorities increasingly turn to street furniture to enhance their open spaces, the choice of construction materials is now becoming just as important as the aesthetic appeal when selecting the type of furniture to invest in, bringing hardwood timber to the forefront.

High quality street furniture built from Naturally Very Durable Hardwood makes a much bigger contribution than purely good looks, here's just a few of the features and benefits of hardwood street furniture:

- Extremely robust construction material, from sustainable forests
- Long life expectancy delivers increasing value for money over time
- The simple, natural appearance of Hardwood allows our designs to blend seamlessly into both rural and urban environments
- Highly fire retardant and able to resist vandalism
- Requires little or no maintenance
- No preservative treatment is necessary
- The ingress of water will not result in internal decay
- Hardwood can be manipulated into a range of unique designs, so tough can also be beautiful

Characteristics of Hardwood

The natural durability of timber is classified in five broad categories based on their performance in ground contact.

Timbers in the Naturally Very Durable category have a life expectancy, without preservative treatment, of more than 100 years in UK ground contact for section sizes of 200mm upwards. These timbers are usually very hard, extremely strong and have good fire and chemical resistance.

Dense Very Durable Hardwood in large sections seasons slowly over a number of years. During the acclimatisation process cracks/checks may appear, especially during periods of hot dry weather. These are more noticeable early in the seasoning cycle, than after in-depth equalisation of moisture content has taken place.

The above characteristics of solid timber may cause a certain amount of concern until it is understood that they do not generally compromise the strength

or durability of manufactured components. Unlike preservative treated softwoods, the durability of NVD Hardwood is throughout the full section and any moisture ingress would not normally result in internal decay.

All hardwoods exude tannin as part of the natural weathering process, when certain tannins (particularly Oak) come into contact with ferrous particles they can react and create a blue/black ink type stain. This is perfectly normal and can be removed with standard household detergents/bleach. For more stubborn stains an Oxalic Acid based product can be used.

No preservative treatment is necessary although a pigmented stain may be applied at any time. If left in the natural state, the long life expectancy is not impaired and over a period of time the timbers will weather gracefully to a beautiful silver grey colour, alternatively they can be stained to maintain a fresh look.

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