

Durability classification of Wood Species (Hard and Soft Wood)

You must consider the durability and performance of the different types of wood species available when selecting the appropriate type of wood to use for your project. Careful consideration should be weighed against the initial cost of materials versus the cost of ongoing maintenance. For example selecting wood for a deck demands more durable wood as this area would be classified as high traffic/use.

Note: Where long term performance is an issue, consideration must be given to the species (wood) durability, detailing (contaminate issues), correct fastenings (such as nails, joints etc.) and protective finishes (paints, stains etc.). Source: State Forests of New South Wales – Technical publication series 6.

Class 1 Highly Durable	Class 2 Durable	Class 3 Moderately Durable	Class 4 Non-Durable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Box • Grey Coast Cedar • Western Red Ironbark • Grey Ironbark • Broad Leafed Red Ironbark • Narrow Red Leafed Mahogany • White Pine • White Cypress • Tallowwood Turpentine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackbutt Gum • River Red Gum • Spotted Mahogany • Red Pine • Black Cypress • Stringybark • White Stringybark • Yellow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash • Silvertop Box • Brush Gum • Mountain Grey Gum • Rose (flooded) Gum • Sydney Blue Messmate • Stringybark • Brown Stringybark • Silvertop (class2-3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash • Alpine (tas oak) • Brownbarrel Pine • Hoop Pine • Radiata Fir • Douglas (oregon) • Hemlock (western) • Meranti (pacific maple)

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