

Discover Interwil's World of Wood



meranti

THE VERSATILE
HARDWOOD

BRINGING THE WORLD OF WOOD TO YOU



INTERWIL



the wonder of wood

At Interwil, we have a special relationship with wood. While we weigh up and consider its many properties as a material for construction or furniture manufacture, we also recognise wood as a substance of wonder and beauty, a subject of intense interest, a breathing, organic product with a life all of its own. In short, we have a passion for wood. Which is why we go to such lengths to ensure that our product is always of the highest quality. And why we love to share our knowledge and interest with you. This brochure examines meranti, the wonder hardwood from Malaysia.

meet meranti

Meranti is the commercial name applied to a large variety of different hardwood species of the genus *Shorea*, produced and exported worldwide from Malaysia. The wood is strong, flexible and durable, medium in weight, and varying in colour from a pink colour to a medium red shade. Thanks to its attractive appearance and easy workability, meranti is one of the world's most widely used hardwoods.



what's in a name?

Many different species belong to the *Shorea* genus, and meranti is known under many different names in its countries of origin. The species that is procured from West Malaysia (Peninsula) is known as meranti whereas the same species procured from Sabah (East Malaysia) is commonly known as Seraya. These timbers are all sold and marketed in South Africa under the name meranti.

versatility


Meranti is a tried and tested timber that is widely used in veneers, joinery products including mouldings, skirtings, cover strips and furniture. Doors and window-frames made of meranti are a feature in many South African homes. The wood is coarsely grained but even, with good nailing and gluing properties which machines and finishes well. The heartwood is regarded as tough and relatively durable, and with some exceptions, it is naturally resistant to decay and insects.



sustainable and responsible forest management


At Interwil we believe in the balance between worldwide forest management and rational economic and socio-economic objectives. Our timber is therefore sourced only from countries that subscribe to sustainable forest management. This contributes to the management of forests as a valuable and renewable resource and the protection of forest areas as a habitat for wildlife.

meranti from interwil



Interwil has been importing meranti to South Africa for more than 40 years and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Interwil procures meranti on a direct import basis as well as stocking and selling it in bundles from the warehouses located countrywide. Timber source areas are visited frequently and an extensive knowledge of our customers' needs ensures that appropriate products are sourced for a variety of applications.

colour and classification



Although meranti is often regarded as a "red" wood, significant colour variations occur between species. Meranti timbers are classified on the basis of colour and density, depending on the species and the part of the tree used. Heartwood is naturally darker than sapwood. Rainfall, humidity, temperature and soil characteristics particular to a region also play a significant role in the quality of the final sawn product, which means that certain parcels of meranti may behave very differently from others.

type

Of all the different species of meranti, Interwil imports and distributes what can best be described as red meranti throughout South Africa. The texture is coarse, but even, with the grain interlocked and wavy. The density varies from 450 kg/m³ to 640 kg/m³ according to species, averaging about 540 kg/m³ when dried.



grading

All meranti distributed by Interwil is subject to stringent quality controls. The timber is graded under the standard and better grade according to the Malaysian Grading Rules for Sawn Hardwoods and Interwil conforms 100% to the criteria laid down. The trained graders are all registered with the Malaysian Timber Industry Board. Obviously, untreated raw timber is susceptible to expansion and contraction and natural movement caused by variances in both temperature and humidity. For a complete reference to the grading rules, contact can be made with the nearest Interwil Sales office.

drying

Most types of meranti dry rapidly and well, with little degrading. Some light distortion and surface checking may occur in the denser types. The Malaysian Forest Service provides the following information regarding the **air drying (AD)** times for red meranti dried under cover in Malaysia to reduce moisture content from $\pm 60\%$ to 18% : 1 inch boards: 2 - 3 months; 1,5 inch boards: 3,5 to 4,5 months; 2 inch boards: approximately 5 months. AD does not necessarily mean it is ready to use but is classified as "shipping dry". Kiln-dried (KD) timber is graded twice: once before it goes into the kiln and again thereafter. Generally accepted practice for Moisture Content (MC) from West Malaysian Timber Kilning Association is between 10 - 18% MC depending on the thickness.

select the meranti you need

In Europe, most meranti procured is graded as "Select and Better". In South Africa the practice has always been to procure meranti of "Standard and Better" quality. While Select and Better meranti is not stocked by Interwil in South Africa, it can be obtained. There is however, a considerable premium attached.

conversion table:

Widths		Lengths	
Inches	mm	Feet	Metres
1/2	12.70	3	0.915
5/8	15.87	4	1.220
3/4	19.05	5	1.525
7/8	22.22	6	1.830
1	25.40	7	2.135
1 1/2	38.10	8	2.440
2	50.80	9	2.745
2 1/2	63.50	10	3.050
3	76.20	11	3.355
3 1/2	88.90	12	3.660
4	101.60	13	3.965
4 1/2	114.30	14	4.270
5	127.00	15	4.575
6	152.40	16	4.880
6 1/2	165.10	17	5.185
7	177.80	18	5.490
8	203.20		
9	228.60		
10	254.00		
11	279.40		
12	304.80		





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