

S U N D O W N



Timber Field Guide

A guide to the timbers we use, why we choose them and what they can look like



Our Timber



We work exclusively with Australian native hardwoods because we want our pieces to have a deep connection to place.

Sourcing these species locally allows us to work with materials that belong to the landscapes around us, while reducing our reliance on imported materials.

We seek out timber with an existing story. Our hardwoods are either reclaimed from previous use or hand-salvaged from past forestry operations, making the most of valuable materials that either already exist or would have been discarded.

This older heritage timber often brings qualities that cannot be replicated, richer tones, distinctive grain and a depth of character shaped by time. It can also show subtle traces of its previous life, we see these imperfections not as defects but as evidence of history and character.

Our standard timber offering comprises Victorian Ash, Spotted Gum, Blackwood and Red Gum.

As timber is a natural material, there can be considerable variation within the same species due to factors such as where the tree grew, the climate, soil conditions and water availability.

For projects where the timber itself is an important part of the design, we can hand-select boards to achieve a particular balance of colour, grain or character across a group of lights.

We can also work with other Australian native timbers as part of a custom project, subject to availability and suitability for the design.



VIC ASH

Species: Eucalyptus regnans / Eucalyptus delegatensis

Source: Recycled timber yard, Geelong VIC — less than 1km from our workshop.



Predominant Hues: Pale cream, straw, soft yellow, light beige

Further Natural Colour Variations: Warm tan, light brown, pinkish tones

Grain: Generally straight and fine, with occasional subtle figuring.

Character: Light in colour and relatively restrained in appearance, allowing the form of the light to remain prominent.

Available finishes: Natural • Black stain



Black stain: Our black finish is applied as a stain rather than an opaque coating, allowing the underlying grain and variation of the Victorian Ash to remain visible.



SPOTTED GUM

Species: *Corymbia maculata* and related species

Source: Recycled timber yard, Melbourne VIC — timber transported from NSW/QLD.



Predominant Hues: Warm beige, honey, light-medium brown

Further Natural Colour Variations: Golden brown, warm brown, subtle reddish tones

Grain: Straight, interlocked or highly figured, with distinctive ribbon-like patterns occurring in some boards.

Character: Dense and strongly varied, with pronounced differences in colour and grain between individual boards.

Available finishes: Natural



BLACKWOOD

Species: Acacia melanoxylon

Source: Victorian supplier, The Otways. DEECA Forest Produce Licence holder. Dedicated to salvaging wood with minimal ecological footprint.



Predominant Hues: Medium to dark golden brown, Warm honey, caramel, warm brown

Further Natural Colour Variations: reddish brown, olive-brown, chocolate

Grain: Usually straight to wavy, with figured grain occurring in some boards.

Character: Warm and richly coloured, with considerable variation in tone and figure.

Available finishes: Natural



RED GUM

Species: Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Source: Recycled timber yard, Geelong VIC — less than 1km from our workshop.



Predominant Hues: Warm reddish brown

Further Natural Colour Variations: Lighter pinkish red

Grain: Variable and often irregular, with gum veins and other natural markings.

Character: Dense and richly coloured, with pronounced variation in tone, grain and natural marking.

Available finishes: Natural



The Finish

We finish all our lights with a satin finish formulated from naturally derived ingredients. This finish provides protection while maintaining the natural appearance and tactile quality of the wood.

The result is a low-sheen surface in which the grain, colour and variation of the timber remain visible, intended to protect the material without obscuring it.



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