

BLACKBUTT

(Eucalyptus pilularis)

The common name blackbutt came about due to the tree's appearance after bushfire, whereby the buttress - or butt - was significantly darkened. It is also known as coastal blackbutt to distinguish it from the tableland species, New England blackbutt.

Due to its quick growth and versatility, blackbutt makes a good plantation timber. It is a commonly available commercial hardwood species in New South Wales and southern Queensland, often used for building framework.

The heartwood ranges from golden yellow to pale brown, although occasionally a slight pinkish colour may be present. The sapwood, which is not always easy to distinguish, is much paler in appearance and is resistant to attack by lyctid borer. Blackbutt has an even texture and generally straight grain making it appealing for interior use applications.



BAYSWOOD TIMBER
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TECHNICAL INFORMATION

COLOUR

Blackbutt has an even texture. The grain can be interlocked but it is generally straight, making it appealing for interior use applications such as flooring and joinery. The heartwood ranges from golden yellow to pale brown, although occasionally a slight pinkish colour may be present. The sapwood, which is not always easy to distinguish, is much paler in appearance. Small gum veins may also be visible.

DENSITY

Unseasoned: 1100KG/m³ Seasoned: 900KG/m³

GRAIN

Moderately coarse textured and uniform.

STRENGTH

S2 unseasoned; SD2 seasoned.

STRUCTURAL RATINGS

F11, F14, F17, F22 (unseasoned), F17, F22, F27, F34 (seasoned)

HARDNESS (JANKA)

8.9kN (Seasoned) & 6.5kN (Unseasoned)

TERMITE RESISTANCE

Resistant

SHRINKAGE TO 12% MC

Very High (7.3% tangential – 4.3% radial)

DURABILITY ABOVE GROUND

Very High – More than 40 Years

DURABILITY IN GROUND

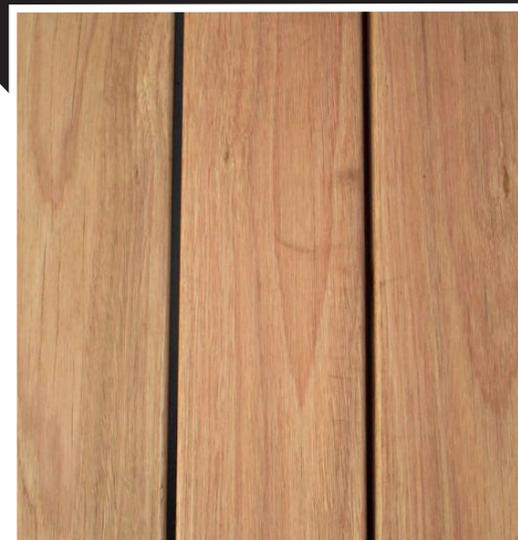
High – 15-25 Years

WORKING PROPERTIES

Care needs to be taken when drying as blackbutt is prone to surface checking on the tangential surface. Blackbutt should not be re-conditioned as this will widen any surface checks. Blackbutt can be stained, painted or polished but there can be issues with painting because of its tendency to surface check. The high extractives of mature wood can cause problems with some adhesives, but this is much less of an issue with young regrowth wood. These extractives can also cause staining on painted surfaces after exposure to the weather. Blackbutt machines well but is only fair for steam bending.

USES

Blackbutt is a versatile timber and is used for structural, exterior and interior applications. In New South Wales and southern Queensland it is very popular for timber framing but is also used for cladding, internal and external flooring, decking, joinery, landscaping and furniture. Blackbutt is also used in the manufacture of plywood.



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