

TECHNICAL BULLETIN: P474

APPLIES TO ALL DOORS | APRIL 2024 REV 01

NATURAL VARIATIONS IN VENEERS

VT Industries recommends proceeding with caution before specifying the following words to define your wood door veneer choice in Section 08210: **Rotary Cut Natural Birch or Plain Sliced Natural Birch.**

Wood is a product of nature, and in some cases, will accentuate and enhance a project design when used in its purest, or natural, state. However, as a product of nature, each wood species has certain intrinsic and industry-acceptable characteristics, which can vary from tree to tree and flitch (half log) to flitch. It is precisely these naturally occurring variations that provide such richness and uniqueness to each project design.

Certain wood species such as natural maple and birch can vary widely in color range, which is why in many cases select white is specified so that the sapwood can be accumulated and spliced together to create a consistent color.

When specifying "natural" birch, the veneer will contain unlimited amounts of Sapwood (the light portion of the log) and/or Heartwood (the dark portion of the log) unselected for color. If a light colored veneer is preferred, specify Select White (all Sapwood) maple or birch. If a dark colored veneer is preferred, specify Select Red/Brown (all Heartwood).

ROTARY NATURAL BIRCH



PLAIN SLICED NATURAL BIRCH



Door manufacturers do not sort veneers by uniformity of color within an order or project, regardless of if "A" Grade or "AA" Grade veneers are selected as both selections allow some distinct variations in color between Heartwood and Sapwood. In addition, pairs are matched within an individual opening – other pairs in the same area may not match.

If uniformity of color within a door is required, we suggest you consider specifying Select White Birch instead.







