

Grades of Tasmanian Oak

Dried and machined Tasmanian Oak for appearance applications is generally graded to rules set by Australian Standard AS2796.2–2006: “Timber–Hardwood–Sawn and Milled Products, Part 2: Grade description” as a minimum allowable quality. These rules are reproduced overleaf. This Standard covers most milled hardwood products except window frames, sashes and sills.

Tasmanian Oak is available in three grades: Select (SEL), Medium Feature–Standard (MF) and High Feature (HF). Select Grade timber is the most uniform in appearance, while Medium and High Feature contain larger amounts of natural feature such as gum, natural stains and knots. Timber is generally graded on all faces.

Tasmanian Oak is usually sold free of sapwood. Burl or hobnail feature may be present, as there is no limitation on them in any of the grades. None of the grades contain timber with decay, compression failures, shakes, splits or other fractures. Want, wane and mechanical damage are permitted only on concealed surfaces.

All grades of timber are allowed the same amount of distortion; this is governed by product type rather than timber grade. Thus, a product of any grade can be expected to fit readily into its intended application. However, flooring or light decking of Medium or High Feature may require knots or holes that approach the maximum size allowed to be trimmed out. A pack of timber of a particular grade will have a fair distribution of boards with the amount of feature allowed in that grade.



Select Grade (SEL)



Medium Feature Grade–Standard (MF)



High Feature Grade (HF)

Select Grade (SEL)

Select Grade has a relatively even grain and figure that provides a rich but generally uniform texture and surface.

Feature	
Natural stain or discolouration	Slight.
Other discolouration	Not present, except if product is to be painted.
Black speck	Small amount may be present.
Quartersawn tight gum vein	Individual tight gum veins may be up to 2mm wide and 250mm in length. Aggregate length of all tight gum veins present is less than half of the board length.
Backsawn tight gum vein	As for quartersawn tight gum vein.
Loose gum vein	Not present.
Gum & latex pockets, overgrowth of injury	Not present.
Holes	Small holes up to 2mm in diameter may be present. The maximum number of holes varies with the board width. For boards between 50 and 100mm wide, 5 holes are allowed in any 100mm with a total of 10 holes allowed in any 900mm length. For boards wider than 100mm, 8 holes are allowed in any 100mm length with a total of 16 holes allowed in any 900mm length.
Tight knots	Tight knots may be present, but they must be smaller in aggregate than 15mm measured across their largest dimension, or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface width for any 1m of board length.
Checks appearing on the surface	Small checks may be present, but they will each be less than 1mm wide and 250mm long.

Medium Feature Grade-Standard (MF)

Medium Feature Grade provides a surface with distinct natural appeal. Features that may affect structural soundness are excluded.

Feature	
Natural stain or discolouration	May be present.
Other discolouration	Not present, except if product is to be painted.
Black speck	May be present.
Quartersawn tight gum vein	Tight gum veins may be present, but each will be less than 5mm wide.
Backsawn tight gum vein	Backsawn gum vein may be present, but will be a maximum of 2mm deep, 1m long and 60mm wide across the largest dimension.
Loose gum vein	There may be loose gum veins present up to 3mm wide. They will not intersect a board end or extend from surface to surface, and the aggregate length of all loose gum veins present will be less than $\frac{1}{5}$ of the board length.
Gum & latex pockets, overgrowth of injury	May be present, but will not extend from surface to surface. Maximum width will be 10mm, length 50mm and depth if backsawn 2mm.
Holes	Small holes up to 3mm in diameter may be present. The maximum number of holes varies with the board width. For boards between 50 and 100mm wide, 16 holes are allowed in any 100mm with a total of 24 holes allowed in any 900mm length. For boards wider than 100mm, 24 holes are allowed in any 100mm length with a total of 36 holes allowed in any 900mm length.
Tight knots	May be present, but individually or in aggregate over 1m length of board, will be lesser than 40mm measured across the largest dimension or $\frac{1}{3}$ the surface width.
Checks appearing on the surface	May be present, but each will be a maximum of 2mm wide and 250mm long.

High Feature Grade (HF)

High Feature Grade Tasmanian Oak provides a surface that is rich with a lively and vibrant character.

Feature	
Natural stain or discolouration	May be present.
Other discolouration	Not present, except if product is to be painted.
Black speck	May be present.
Quartersawn tight gum vein	May be present, but maximum width will be 5mm.
Backsawn tight gum vein	May be present, but maximum depth will be 2mm.
Loose gum vein	There may be loose gum veins present up to 3mm wide. They will not intersect a board end or extend from surface to surface, and the aggregate length of all loose gum veins present will be less than $\frac{1}{5}$ of the board length.
Gum & latex pockets, overgrowth of injury	These will not extend from surface to surface. Maximum width will be 15mm, length 75mm and depth if backsawn 2mm.
Holes	Pinholes may be present. The maximum number of holes varies with the board width. For boards between 50 and 100mm wide, 16 holes are allowed in any 100mm with a total of 24 holes allowed in any 900mm length. For boards wider than 100mm, 24 holes are allowed in any 100mm length with a total of 36 holes allowed in any 900mm length. Up to 3 holes between 3mm and 10mm in diameter may be present in any 1m length of board.
Tight knots	The largest dimension individually or in aggregate of any tight knots present in any 1m length of board will be less than 50mm for boards greater than 133mm wide; the maximum dimension of tight knots for boards less than 133mm wide is $\frac{3}{8}$ of the surface width.
Checks appearing on the surface	May be present, but each will be less than 2mm.

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