

the beginner's guide to WOODWORKING

- Types of Wood - How to Know Which Type is Right for You



CHERRY

Called "New England Mahogany," newly cut cherry is a pale, pinkish brown, but darkens to a mahogany-like red.

Applications: One of the most valued woods for cabinets and furniture.

Tools: Works well with all hand and machine tools and withstands shock, compaction, and abuse.

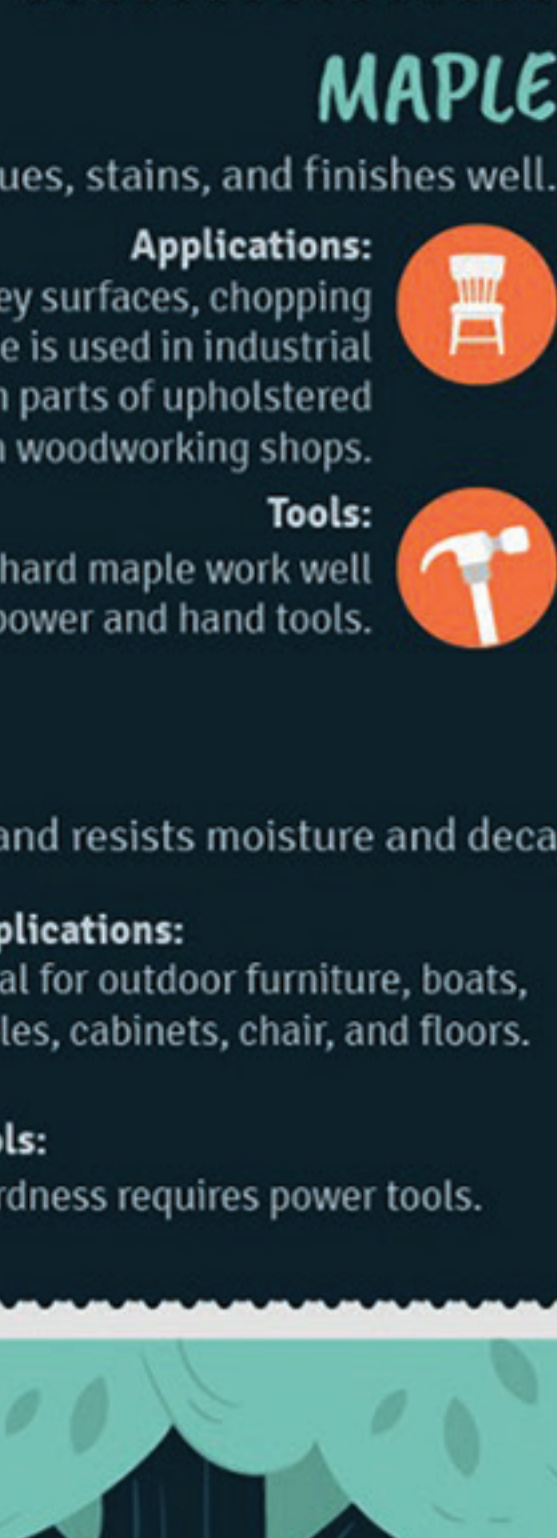


BIRCH

Great strength, rigidity, and shock resistance.

Applications: Favored for flooring, chairs, chests, tables, and cabinets.

Tools: Hardness makes working it with hand tools difficult, but shapes readily with power and machine tools.



MAPLE

Resists warping and glues, stains, and finishes well.

Applications: Hard maple is used in bowling alley surfaces, chopping blocks, and piano frames. Soft maple is used in industrial applications, cabinet frames, unseen parts of upholstered furniture, and jigs and forms used in woodworking shops.

Tools: Both soft and hard maple work well with both power and hand tools.



OAK

Oak is hard and resists moisture and decay.

Applications: Ideal for outdoor furniture, boats, tables, cabinets, chair, and floors.

Tools: Hardness requires power tools.



WALNUT

Walnut is a straight grained wood with course texture.

Applications: Remains a favorite for furniture, paneling, musical instruments, and sculpture.

Tools: Gets good results with either hand or power tools.



PINE

Pine is considered a softwood, but some species are harder than others. Western white pine rates as 30 percent harder than eastern white pine.

Applications: Can be used for cabinets, furniture, doors, shelving units and outdoor furniture if treated.

Tools: Works with hand and power tools, but keep all tool cutting edges sharp.

Essential Woodworking Tools

Hand Tool Need to Haves:

A workbench \$150
Although this might not be the tool you're expecting, a workbench will be essential for any major woodworking projects you take on.

Rip Hand Saw, Cross Cut Saw, Miter Saw and Miter Box, and Chopping Saw \$50
Saws are one of the more affordable hand tools.

Chisels \$35
Look for a bench chisel set and mortise chisel. Don't be afraid to pay a little extra for these as you will be using them frequently.

Jack Handplane \$25-50
You'll want to later buy a dedicated smoothing plane and a jointer plane, but a Jack Plane is ideal for working on beginner woodworking projects.

Marking Knife & Measuring Tape \$5-15 / \$10 / \$80
These are must-haves in order to make sure you're cutting where you need to cut.

Sharpening Supplies \$80
Having sharp tools is one of the most important aspects of woodworking and will make all the difference with your projects.

Hand Tool Nice to Haves:

Block Plane \$20
These are handy for trimming your joints, putting chamfers on board edges and trim end grain. Aim for finding a low angle block plane.

Woodworking clamps \$25-40
These are essential to hold your freshly glued joints together.

Power Tool Need to Haves:

Circular Saw \$20
This is one of the most versatile handheld power tools. This is a good tool to purchase and get comfortable with before investing in a table saw.

Power Drill \$50+
This is often the first power tool anyone purchases. Keep in mind that a cordless drill may be more portable, but corded drills can do more.
*Corded drills: \$40
Cordless drills: \$50

Table Saw \$300+
Once you're comfortable with the above tools, a table saw should be your first major tool purchase.
*Expect to pay at least \$300, but a lot of higher end table saw can cost upwards of \$800.

Power Tool Nice to Haves:

Jigsaw
For versatility, pick an orbital-action, corded jigsaw that feels good to you. As you progress in your woodworking skills, you may want to consider purchasing a band saw.

Random Orbital Sander \$50
This tool doesn't sand in a pattern and reduces the risk that sanding marks will appear on the final project.

Compound Miter Saw \$200
Miter saws are essential for cutting compound angles and the ends of pieces.

Router \$130-180
Routers can be used to cut patterns and grooves in wood.

Air compressor \$1,200
Air compressors are essential not only to powering a wide range of tools, but also to cleaning off dusty tools. Depending on your needs, you'll need to consider tank capacity and power of the motor and the overall size and weight for portability.

Beginner woodworking project

If you're looking for a project once you have a little practice under your belt, building a vertical wall planter may be the perfect project.

What you'll need

Terra Cotta Flower Pots 20 4" to 5" (can vary depending on how many planks you use)

Pine Boards 5 3/4" (you'll want to use pine because a softwood will be a little easier to work with, but pine has the hardness to support the weight of plants)

Zip Ties

Power Drill

Rope

Milwaukee 4" Bi-Metal Hole Saw

Air Compressor

Circular Saw

Pliers

Step 1
Lay out the holes and mark each with a pencil or pen mark. Make sure to leave 2" between flower pot holes and 1" between the rope holes and the edges of the board.

Step 2
Trim the boards using your circular saw to the desired length.

Step 3
Drill pilot holes. Rather than marking each board, you could drill small pilot holes through the entire stack of boards. An air compressor would make the drilling more exact.

Step 4
Cut holes for the post using your drill at the highest setting. For added precision, use clamps to secure the boards against your workbench.

Step 5
Drill holes for the rope using 5/16" in drill bit.

Step 6
Sand boards.

Step 7
String boards together using rope and tie a knot at the bottom.

Step 8
Hang the garden. Make sure whatever location you're hanging it can support the weight. Also make sure your plants can get enough sunlight.

Step 9
Adjust the boards into the right location and then use the zip ties to secure them. You may want to add two or three at each placement so that it doesn't slide when you add plants.

Step 10
Place the potted plants and enjoy!

Ready to take your woodworking skills to the next level? Explore a collection of **16,000 Woodworking Plans** and turn your ideas into reality!

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