



TEAK UNIVERSITY

A.R.B. Teak lives and breathes Indonesian teak furniture. It's because of this passion that we're committed to sharing our wisdom and knowledge so that you too can become a teak expert.

We truly believe the more you learn about teak, the more you will not only come to see it as the only solution for bath and spa furniture, but also come to fall in love with it – like we have!

Welcome to TEAK U.

Subscribe to TEAK U
by emailing us at
info@arbteak.com



Teak & Specialties



Always know your ABCs

Teak wood is available in 3 different quality grades: A, B and C. This is important to know as each grade plays a key role in the performance and durability of the furniture it is made into.

At first glance, you might think all teak looks the same. But remember, looks can be deceiving! Let's look at what makes them different.

But first, a quick lesson on trees.



How trees grow and why it's important to know

- Trees grow out from their center. This makes the heartwood (centre of the tree) the oldest, the strongest and the most oil rich.
- The outer layers are greenwood or sapwood. The sapwood is the part of the tree that transports the water from roots to leaves, making it the wettest part of the tree. This is crucial to know as it has not been around long enough to develop any oil.

Why does this matter? Because wet wood warps and contains none of the natural properties to protect itself from mold, mildew or insects.

So, just how can you tell this wood apart?

Grades of teak



Grade A

Hewn from the heartwood of a fully mature teak tree (40-80 years old), grade A is of the highest possible quality. It's antibacterial and virtually immune to rotting.

Look for:

- *Maximum oil content*
- *Uniform, golden honey colour*
- *Dense grain structure*
- *Lustrous surface that feels oily*
- *Knot-free*



Grade B

Between the heartwood and the sapwood lies grade B teak. Of lesser quality, grade B contains considerably less oil than grade A meaning it will require constant protective treatments.

Look for:

- *Lighter colour when compared to grade A*
- *Uneven grain*
- *Less shine*
- *Gray/black veins*
- *Some knots*



The separation between grade A and C is obvious when looking at a cross-section of a teak log (Tectona Grandis). However, it is important to note that grade C can be made to look like grade A with the use of chemicals. See "IMPORTANT" section below.



The part of the tree that was living when felled, grade C contains no similar characteristics to its' grade A counterpart. It is susceptible to weather and insects and despite constant maintenance, will eventually warp and break.

Look for:

- *Knots*
- *Only trace (if any) amounts of oil*
- *White wood*
- *Uneven colour/discolouration*
- *Splinters*



IMPORTANT

Grade B & C teak can be treated chemically to make it appear like grade A.

When buying grade A teak furniture, it is imperative you trust who you are buying from.

A.R.B. Teak has been working directly with our craftsmen nearly two decades to ensure top quality every time. This includes log selection, the science-based kiln drying process and quality-assurance from plantation to North American delivery.



Since heartwood is such a small proportion of a log (around 1/5), grades B and C are sometimes chemically treated to achieve the even color and smooth finish of grade A. These products are sold for less, competing with true grade A pieces, but they will not stand up to the tests of moisture and time.

We encourage everyone investing in teak to ask questions and dig deeper. An expert will know the answers.
