

Shorea Wood: More Than Just a Thrifty Teak Alternative

Not so long ago, when a consumer wanted to invest in beautiful, long-lasting outdoor wood furniture, teak wood was widely considered to be the natural choice. Today, with the increased availability of Shorea wood in the Western hemisphere, there's an economical alternative that offers many of the desirable highlights of teak—for considerably less. Like its more expensive counterpart, Shorea is a high-quality hardwood praised not only for its looks, but for its longevity and resistance to decay.

Growing primarily in Southeast Asia, the wood from Shorea trees has been used for centuries in outdoor applications that demand hardiness, such as boat decking. Shorea wood furniture is typically available in a honey-brown color that, like teak, gradually weathers to the silvery hue that is so cherished by discerning collectors. Although this visible aging process can be slowed down through the use of specially designed treatment products, many wood purists consider the distinctive grayish patina of aged Shorea or teak wood to be one of its most desirable features.

Teak is widely preferred for its hardness and density, two assets that make it ideal for use in outdoor furniture. This application requires a strong, resilient wood that can stand up to everyday wear and tear as well as inclement weather conditions. Like teak, Shorea wood is also exceptionally hard and dense. In fact, it possesses an even tighter wood grain, making it heavier, denser, and harder than teak. Classified as a Group A heavy hardwood, Shorea is a practical choice for outdoor furniture, demonstrating an uncommon strength that endures many seasons of use and exposure.

Shorea shares another important set of advantages with teak. Due to their tight, dense grains, both woods exhibit extraordinary resistance to decay, even after prolonged exposure to moist conditions. You can rest assured that your Shorea outdoor furniture will stand the test of time, even through extreme weather cycles. In addition, Shorea wood contains a comparatively high oil content, which not only enhances its defenses against the ravages of time and changing climate, but also against destructive insect infestations.

Shorea and teak woods share many common assets—timeless beauty, impressive strength, unique weathering properties, and resistance to decay—that

make both of them preferred materials for outdoor furniture. Shorea, however, has the additional advantage of a significantly lower price point, sometimes costing as little as half the price of teak. This price difference actually has very little to do with their respective qualities, as both are considered fine hardwoods. Instead, the lower cost of Shorea can be attributed to its relative abundance when compared to teak's rarity, as well as the fact that successful reforestation strategies have assured a steady supply of Shorea wood.

When you're ready to invest in a handsome, hard-wearing set of outdoor wood furniture, it's good to know you have a choice. Shorea wood possesses many of the advantages of teak, offered at a significantly lower price. Compare for yourself—we're confident that you'll appreciate the natural warmth, solidity, and uniqueness of Shorea wood furniture, while enjoying the substantial savings over its teak lookalike.