BALSA WOOD

SPECIFICATION

Ochroma pyramidale

Strength and durability

Balsa is the lightest commercial wood species in the world yet has a hard wood grain structure. Therefore, it is lightweight with great mechanical properties that make it ideal for a wide range of finished products. Balsa wood is very easy to cut, shape and bend when used as a modeling material, yet is very stiff when used as a core material for composite panels.

Uses & Processing

Balsa is heavily utilized in the marine, aviation, skiing, wind turbine and modeling industries. It is used as end-grain panels in composite manufacturing in boat decks or wind turbine blades due to its very high strength to weight ratio. It's also used in a long-grain format for model airplane wings and ribs.

Geography and Ecology

Environmentally sustainable, fast growing and incredibly durable and strong, balsa is an amazing product that is grown primarily on plantations in Ecuador, Columbia, Brazil, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia.

Balsa Technical Characteristics	
Average Dried Weight	9 lbs./ft3 (150 kg/m3)
Specific Gravity (Basic, 12% MC)	.12, .15
Janka Hardness	67 lbf (300 N)
Modulus of Rupture	2,840 lbf/in2 (19.6 MPa)
Elastic Modulus	538,000 lbf/in2 (3.71 GPa)
Crushing Strength	1,690 lbf/in2 (11.6 MPa)
Radial Shrinkage	2.3%
Tangential Shrinkage	6.0%
Volumetric Shrinkage	8.5%
T/R Ratio	2.6

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Headquartered in Rhode Island USA, we have operations in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia.