



UNDERSTANDING THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF FINE WOOD CABINETRY

UNDERSTANDING NATURAL WOOD COLOR CHARACTERISTICS

Below are the various natural color characteristics of raw wood by the different species used in fine Merillat cabinetry:

Cherry is an elegant, multi-colored hardwood. In its raw state, prior to finishing the product, it has a pinkish-brown hue with occasional shades of white, pink and sometimes green.

Hard **Maple** has a strong, closed wood grain that is predominately

off-white in color. It can also contain light hues of yellow-brown and pink in its natural raw condition.

Oak has a prominent open grain that ranges in color from white to yellow and even reddish-brown. Sometimes there can be green, yellow or black mineral streaks.

Hickory has a strong, open wood grain that is known for its varied flowing grain pattern. There will be

a dramatic variation of color, that when finished can range from very light to deep, rich browns on the same door.

Birch is a medium-density hardwood with distinct, yet subtle grain pattern that can be straight to wavy. The wood will contain colors of white, creamy yellow with the heartwood going from medium to dark brown and even reddish brown areas. ■

THE AGING PROCESS OF WOOD CABINETRY

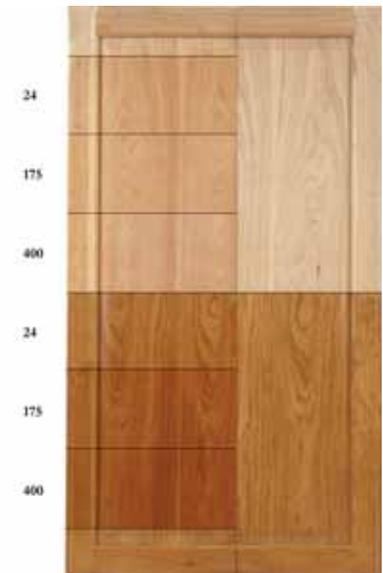
Wood naturally ages over time and at varying degrees depending on the environment and wood specie. Ultraviolet light (UV) from natural sources like the sun to indoor lighting will also have a profound effect on the aging of wood cabinetry. How much light exposure, intensity and frequency will all effect the cabinetry and the rate at which it mellows and ages. This process will change the color appearance of cabinetry, but somewhat gradually. It is likely you may not even notice it unless you compare your older cabinets to those just produced from the factory.

An excellent way to see the effects of aging and mellowing on fine crafted wood cabinetry is to remove the knob from the door or drawer. The exposed surface will look very different from the contained area and depending on the age of the display. Or you can open a drawer to see the aged or hal-lowed effect on the area not exposed.

If the look of the mellowed cabinetry from the natural aging process is unfavorable, consider these options:

- Consider a different finish or wood specie. For example, switch from Cherry Cider to Cherry Paprika or even Maple Sable.
- In cases where the glaze has hang-up in corners and recesses that aren't quite to your choosing, again consider a different and more forgiving glaze scheme. For example, consider comparing a Cottage Linen to a Venetian Fresco or to an Artisan Bronze.
- Another option is to consider a completely different door style for a different look altogether. Even subtle architectural door profiles will hold glaze differently.
- Consider switching from veneer to solid wood center panel style doors. Solid wood has a tendency to age and mellow at a slower rate than veneer.

Note: Merillat uses UV-inhibitors to slow the effects of environmental conditions on wood cabinetry as it ages over time. It is not the finish that changes due to this aging process, it is the wood that mellows over time.



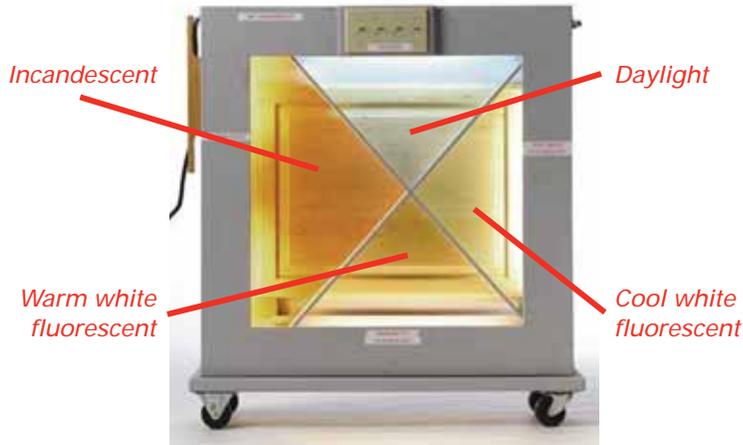
Shown here is a Cherry door exposed to intense UV light. The left side of the door represents 12:00 p.m. noon for a consistent 24 hours, 174 hours and 400 hours. The right side has not been exposed to UV light. The top section of the door is wood that has not been treated or finished; the bottom section shows wood that has a finish applied.

To see more wood species and finishes that have been exposed to UV light and the aging appearance over time, visit www.merillat.com. ■



THE EFFECTS OF LIGHTING ON NATURAL WOOD PRODUCTS

Under certain types of lighting and daylight, there can be an apparent shifting of colors and hues. This chameleon effect can be very evident in natural wood products, finishes and glazes. This phenomenon is often confused with color inconsistency, when in fact the reflective surfaces will absorb light differently depending on the source and type of light. This same effect also happens to any solid type of surface from fabrics, flooring, wallpaper, painted walls, countertops, tile, etc. ■



Shown here is a maple cabinet door. Depending on the wood specie and the color of the finish, the degree of color differentiation by each of the light sources can vary greatly.

UNDERSTANDING GLAZING ON WOOD CABINETRY



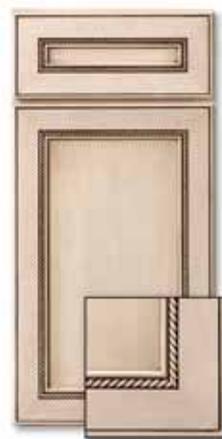
Merillat Classic Destination Maple Blond Tuscan Glaze



Merillat Classic LaBelle Cherry Spiced Cognac Glaze



Merillat Classic Somerton Hill Cherry Ebony Mist Glaze



Merillat Classic Lariat Maple Cottage Linen Glaze

Glazing is applied by automated spray guns on top of a finished door and then hand-wiped. The door's details are hand-brushed, resulting in areas where the glazing is concentrated; this is commonly referred to as "hang-up." This glazing technique intentionally replicates a hand crafted look where no two doors look exactly alike.

Glaze adds a range of color saturation and depth on the wood surface with varied intensities and hues, enhancing the wood's natural characteristics. Detail will vary depending on the natural characteristics of each partic-

ular wood species, for example: closed or open grain, degree of hardness, sapwood areas, mineral streaks or growth rings. The wood's grain will cause glaze hang-up, and hang-up in corners will vary from door to door and by the type of glaze coloring.

Merillat Classic Lariat with Glaze Glaze highlights stand out particularly well in the door's rope and bead detail. Its mitered corners and center panel will have more delicate traces of glaze.

Merillat Classic LaBelle with Glaze Glaze will be dramatically visible on

the doors bead detailing. Its mitered corners will have traces of glaze and uneven hang-up should occur on the top and bottom of the center panel.

Merillat Classic Somerton Hill with Glaze Glaze will collect in edges and corners, accentuating the wood aging appearance on the end grain with an elegant patina flair.

Merillat Classic Destination with Glaze Glaze collects in the grooved center panel and in the drawer front, as well as in corners of recessed edges. ■