

Become a **teak expert**

THE A.B.C.s OF TEAK WOOD

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 the teak wood 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 the grades different from one another.

But first, a quick lesson on trees.

HOW TREES GROW AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU

1. *Trees grow out from their center.* This makes the heartwood (center of the tree) the oldest, the strongest and the most oil rich part of the tree.

2. *The outer layers are greenwood (or sapwood).* Sapwood is the part of the tree that transports water from roots to leaves, making it the wettest part. It is not old enough to have developed any natural 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?



NATURAL GRADE A TEAK IS ...

- Heirloom quality. It does not rot and lasts for generations.
- No maintenance. Wash periodically with mild soap, water and bristle brush to remove soap and product residues. That's it!
- Mold and bacteria resistant, contributing to health in the bathroom.
- Naturally anti-slip, helping increase shower safety.
- Built for strength using mortice and tenon joints exclusively.

GRADES OF TEAK

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

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

GRADE C: This grade teak is the part of the tree that was living when felled, which contains no similar characteristics to its grade A counterpart. It will be susceptible to weather and insects and despite constant maintenance, it will eventually warp and break.

GRADE A

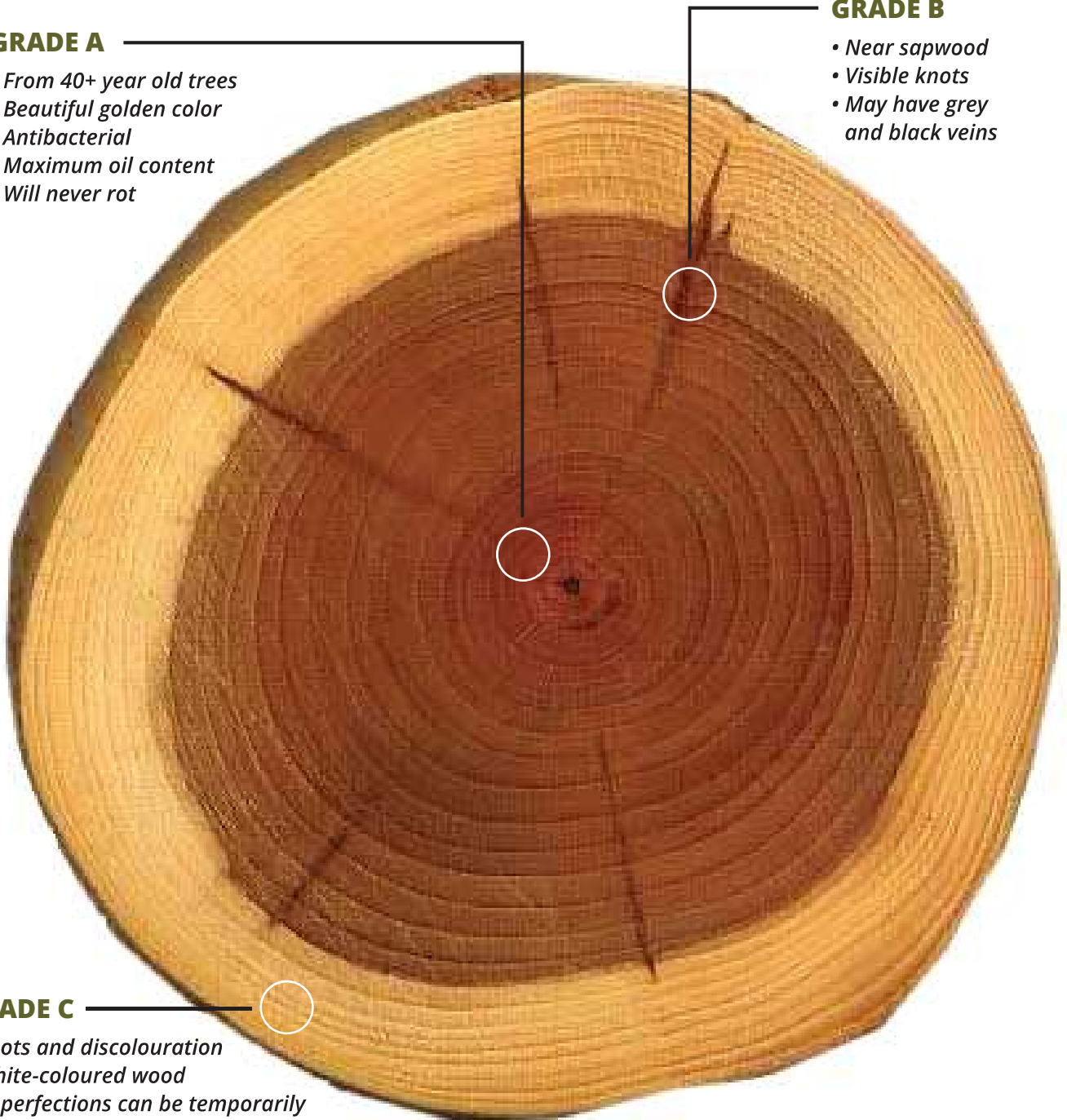
- From 40+ year old trees
- Beautiful golden color
- Antibacterial
- Maximum oil content
- Will never rot

GRADE B

- Near sapwood
- Visible knots
- May have grey and black veins

GRADE C

- Knots and discolouration
- White-coloured wood
- Imperfections can be temporarily hidden with stains and other finishing products



CARE INSTRUCTIONS

TEAK

Teak is maintenance-free. Grade A teak, when left 100% natural, doesn't need any protection from the weather, elements or pests. It inherently has everything it needs to take care of itself. Contrary to popular belief, you don't need a special 'teak cleaner' or 'teak oil' to take care of your teak – ever! In fact, once treated, there are no guarantees how the piece will handle itself when exposed to the elements.

Here's how to take care of teak properly:

Before Use

Before use, wash using a plastic bristle brush, dish soap and water to remove manufacturing sawdust and surface oil.

Cleaning

- Use a constant flow of water
- Brush in the direction of the grain
- Don't forget to flip your shower benches and mats over to get underneath.

Regular cleaning

- Rinse the item with warm water and scrub with a plastic bristle brush.
- As well as the exposed surface, shower mats and benches should be washed underneath to get rid of any accumulation of soap residue.
- The use of detergents or abrasive products can damage your teak and affect its durability. Use warm water and a plastic bristle brush only.

So now you know: Once a client opts for a well-made grade A shower bench or mat, there's not much more they need to do but relax and enjoy their spa-like shower experience. And any suggestion that natural grade A teak requires regular maintenance beyond mild soap and a bristle brush is either lack of knowledge, hiding inferior quality wood, or will compromise the quality of the piece.

