

# An Introduction To **Sweet Chestnut**

## **Main Uses:**

### **Cladding and Decking.**

Sweet Chestnut is available in a wide range of cladding and decking profiles and can either be supplied in solid timber or finger jointed, which has considerable benefits such as longer lengths (up to 6.1m).

Finger jointed can also be produced to specification, thus reducing wastage. By defect cutting shorter pieces and mechanically bonding these back together, this process ensures better quality end product as well as reducing mill waste and therefore helping the environment.

Solid Sweet Chestnut gives a more natural appearance however is limited in both width and length and only available in lower appearance grades.



## **Sweet Chestnut - Castanea Sativa**

Sweet Chestnut offers a light golden appearance similar to Oak with pronounced grain and occasional dark mineral streaks, yet without the silver quarter sawn figure.

Sweet Chestnut is generally straight grained, hard wearing, durable and renowned for its natural stability, these factors along with a reasonable price make Sweet Chestnut an attractive choice for Cladding or Decking. Sweet Chestnut will weather to a natural silver colour if left untreated.

## **The Sweet Smell of Success**

Vincent Timber's Sweet Chestnut can be supplied as solid or finger jointed. Our Sweet Chestnut is supplied by experienced mills and only sourced from managed forests, offering sustainable options in either PEFC or FSC Certified material.

Our supplies ensure that the Sweet Chestnut is selected for the highest quality, thus ensuring once supplied the timber will be in a stable condition, ready to be installed. The addition of Sweet Chestnut compliments Vincent Timber's fast expanding range of external cladding options, offering an attractive, sustainable, durable and cost effective cladding solution.

Don't settle for anything less than the best. Sweet Chestnut, specify it by name.



# Data Sheet

## Sweet Chestnut

### Colour :

Pale golden brown to biscuit, some dark brown stain can be present, ages to silver grey if left unprotected.

### Grain:

Variable, there are considerable changes in the appearance. Visually the timber can alter from straight grain to vertical in very short lengths. This adds to Character. When managed well in the woodland the tree can grow very quickly, this produces a very open early wood, again this enhances the timber.

### Strength :

Although resembling Oak in appearance, Chestnut is less hard and tough and as a result 20 % inferior to Oak.

### Working Properties:

Due to its acidic nature it tends to corrode metals. A blue black stain can appear when in contact with metal, especially in damp conditions.

### Durability:

Heartwood is durable

### Moisture:

The timber is approximately 18 - 22% moisture content when finger jointed

**Moisture Movement:** Small

### Density:

560 kg per m<sup>3</sup> @ 12% moisture content

### Fixing:

Although the timber is generally dry to an air dried state tannins can sometimes be released in wet conditions, it is advisable to protect brick work or painted surfaces while fixing (the next slide explains all). To remove any staining from mechanical handling or fixing process, oxalic acid can be used. Pressure washing can also remove tannins. Stainless steel screws are recommended.

**Uses:** Cladding, Decking, Joinery and Furniture.

### *Finger Jointed Sweet Chestnut*

#### Class:

The timber is not offered defect free. There will possibly be some brown staining/mineral streaks this can appear in small areas. Live knots are tolerated and some very small (under 5mm in diameter dead knots).

### *Solid Sweet Chestnut*

**Class:** Maximum 3, Ref: BS 1186 Visual



# Grades

## Sweet Chestnut

### Finger Jointing - the Benefits

- Finger Jointing is not a new process. Traditionally the volume used was generally softwood to re-grade or provide set lengths, normally for battens or timber which was to be painted and not for visual application.

- Today waste and sustainability are as important as appearance in many of our building projects. The machine Vincent Timber operates allows unacceptable defects to be removed and any lengths up to 6.1mtrs can be produced. Individual Sweet Chestnut pieces 200mm in length and upwards can be jointed.

- This allows us to provide our customers with specific lengths, not only reducing waste, but providing specific length specifications which can assist greatly with vertical installation and panel fabrication, horizontal installation also benefits as cross cutting on site can be avoided as all boards are accurately trimmed and can be butt jointed with no issues.

- The Finger Jointing process ensures that a greater yield is taken from felled logs, thus reducing the volume of felled trees and utilising sections of timber which would otherwise be disposed of.

- Higher quality is achieved by defect cutting, producing high quality almost defect free timber.

- Finger Jointed Sweet Chestnut is Kiln Dried and can be stained or painted, FR Treatments are made easier due to removal of defects usually responsible for degrade.

- The glue used is a D3 RF / W external glue conforming to BS 4071, creep and water resistant, EN204 D3.

- Vincent Timber Finger Jointed Sweet Chestnut is available with FSC or PEFC certification giving Architects total confidence to specify its use. In increasingly high demand, this durable hardwood is fast becoming the sweet alternative to traditional solid hardwoods.

- Please contact our sales office for further details of prices and profiles available.

# Sweet Chestnut

Sweet Chestnut - Finger Jointed



Profiles

Please contact our sales department for information on available profiles.



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