**General Grade Rules**

Character marked hardwoods shall admit any kind, number or distribution of the following characteristics incident to tree growth; heartwood, sapwood, knots, burls, swirls or other fiber irregularities, bird pecks, holes or grooves, knots not exceeding 3” in diameter and color streaks or spots, and light stain, but the cuttings shall not admit decay, loose knots, excessive pith, shake, or split.

- Minimum 75% of each board usable in its full width
- Widths: 5½” and wider (140mm and wider)
- Lengths: 4’–12’ (1220mm – 3660mm) heavy to 7’– 8’ (2135mm – 2440mm)
- Knot size limitation 3” (76mm)
- 80% or better heartwood on the rustic grade face. Each board will have a minimum of one character defect on the rustic grade face
- Open knots or holes allowed up to 1” (25mm) in diameter
- Minimum full width x 2’ (610mm) cutting size
- The reverse side of each cutting shall be as defined as Sound Cuttings, and will not allow holes and open knots larger than 1” (25mm) in diameter.
- Wane: 1” width wane in total aggregate from both sides of the board in cuttings. Total wane less than ½ length of the board in cuttings.
- Board Ends: within 1’ (305mm) of either end of board piece must be minimum 75% of full width of board, or be trimmed back.
General Description
The sapwood is creamy white with a slight reddish brown tinge and the heartwood varies from light to dark reddish brown. The amount of darker brown heartwood can vary significantly according to growing region. Both sapwood and heartwood can contain pith fleck. The wood has a close fine, uniform texture and is generally straight-grained, but it can also occur as “curly,” “fiddleback,” and “birds-eye” figure.

Working Properties
Hard maple dries slowly with high shrinkage, so it can be susceptible to movement in performance. Pre-boring is recommended when nailing and screwing. With care it machines well, turns well, glues satisfactorily, and can be stained to an outstanding finish. Polishes well and is suitable for enamel finishes and brown tones.

Physical Properties
The wood is hard and heavy with good strength properties, in particular its high resistance to abrasion and wear. It also has good steam-bending properties.

Main Uses
Flooring, furniture, paneling, ballroom and gymnasium floors, kitchen cabinets, worktops, table tops, butchers blocks, toys, kitchenware and millwork: stairs, handrails, mouldings, and doors.