

## FACT SHEET

### VENEERS

The art of applying and finishing veneers has been developed over many centuries and dates back as far as the ancient Egyptians. Nowadays, modern manufacturing techniques have created an endless variety of styles to choose from which, at the same time, has brought the process into the sphere of do-it-yourself projects. Veneers provide an attractive and practical alternative to solid timber as they can be used in many building and decorating situations, such as wall and ceiling products, cupboards, shelves, doors and furniture.

Veneers are made from numerous timber species, by slicing a thin section from a log of the desired timber. Wood-veneered products are not a second rate alternative, as they offer the attractive appearance of solid timber as well as a number of extra benefits.

For example, it is possible to create a design effect by matching and repeating

patterns. More importantly, as veneers are cheaper than solid timber the look of expensive and rare timbers can be obtained at a fraction of the cost.

The final appearance and performance of wood-veneered products will greatly depend on the finishing process. Before you begin, the surface must be smooth, clean and dry. Heavy sanding is not recommended, as this will break through the wood surface. The wide array of finishing products on the market, suitable for conventional timber, is also suitable for veneered surfaces. These include stains, sealers, clear polyurethane finishes and, now, water-based stains and surface coatings, etc, which bring out the beauty of the wood and, at the same time, preserve and protect the surface from moisture and wear and tear.

Follow the manufacturer's directions closely and the results will be worth the effort.