Veneers & Overlaid Products

Clear and natural veneers are laminated on to MDF or used in engineered door stiles, while fingerjointed mouldings are overlaid with paper, foil, and plastic.

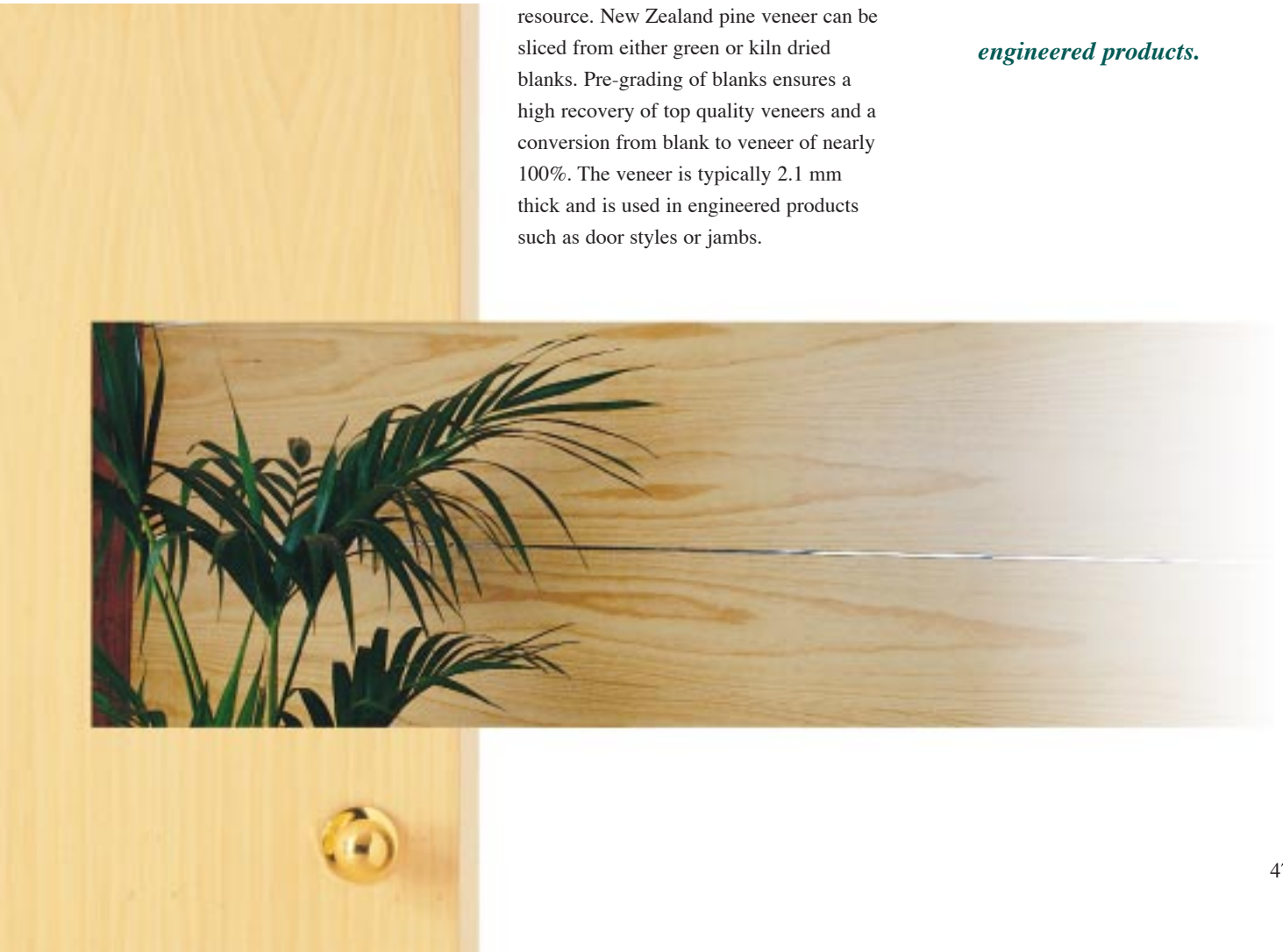
Veneer

New Zealand pine can be sliced or peeled to produce high quality natural clear veneer for a variety of products, such as engineered door stiles, curved plywood, and overlaid panels, to give the appearance of solid wood. The product is well suited to rotary peeling and slicing as the relatively small difference in density between early wood and late wood provides less problems to peeling/slicing and drying than other softwoods. The clearwood silvicultural regimes used in New Zealand produce a pruned log which gives natural clear veneer for high value end uses.

Whole log slicing produces veneer typically 0.6 mm thick, and is mainly used as an overlay on panel products such as MDF and particleboard, or to overlay mouldings. Overlaid panels are used in hard furniture and flush door manufacture. Whole log slicing in New Zealand is used to produce mainly clear veneer and slicing stops when the defect core is reached, leaving a central flitch. Whole log slicing produces 500 m^2 of face grade veneer from 1 cubic metre of pruned log, yielding a 30% conversion. A further 5-20% of back grade veneer, and 10-20% flitch is also produced.

Slicing 'blanks' are cut from boards in a remanufacturing plant. The blanks are high quality, long length clear components recovered to add value to a lower cost resource. New Zealand pine veneer can be sliced from either green or kiln dried blanks. Pre-grading of blanks ensures a high recovery of top quality veneers and a conversion from blank to veneer of nearly 100%. The veneer is typically 2.1 mm thick and is used in engineered products such as door styles or jambs.

The versatility of New Zealand pine is demonstrated by its use as both veneer and substrate in overlaid and engineered products.



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Peeled veneer comes in thickness ranging from 1 mm to 4.2 mm, and is typically used in curved plywood for furniture manufacture. New Zealand pine provides equal proportions of face veneers and back veneers when a pruned log is peeled to a 60-95 mm core, yielding an overall recovery of 50-60% from log to finished product. Further recovery can be achieved with a smaller core.

Substrate For Overlays

New Zealand pine can also be used as a substrate for overlaid products. In Japanese homes, the most common of these are kamachi steps and kamoi top slides. Blocks from a remanufacturing plant are finger-jointed and then laminated into large sections which provide significant stability and strength. These are then overlaid with a veneer and used as steps from the foyer to the rest of the house or door lintels. Similarly, laminated structural grades are covered with veneer and then used as hashira posts in Japanese homes. New Zealand pine veneers could also be used to overlay the New Zealand pine core.

Another type of substrate is fingerjointed mouldings overlaid with paper, plastic, or foil, or direct printed, to make them look like another species. Overlaid mouldings are used in furniture manufacturing and as interior fittings. Ease of profiling and quality of surface finish make the application of an overlay to New Zealand pine much easier. The use of overlaid products is increasing as traditional solid wood supplies decrease and are replaced by engineered solutions.