

Why would you choose Basswood Shutters or other low performance Shutters over Aluma Plantation Shutters?

Choosing price over quality doesn't equal Value For Money ...it just means you paid less for something. If you buy something that costs a little extra but will last longer have a feel of substance and meets your needs of function and design.... then that is Value For Money.

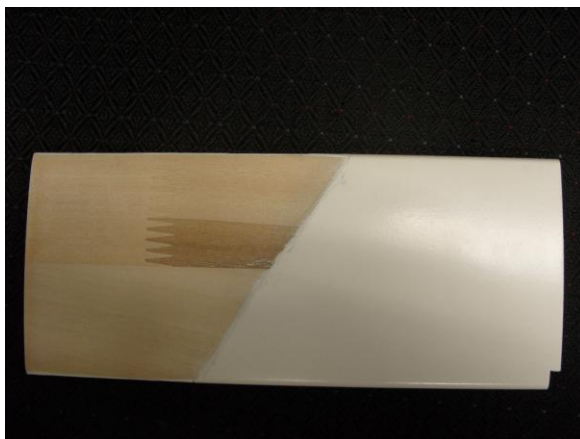
Shutters R Us wide range of Plantation Shutter profiles match exactly to our Timber profiles so that you would believe you're admiring a fine painted Timber Shutter. *The Art of Shutter making* was born right here in Mascot where we continue to innovate this industry.

Basswood Plantation Shutters

Keywords: Basswood Poplar MDF Fauxwood Composite Artwood Ecowood FibreBoard Paulowina

Yes they do cosmetically appeal as a window shutter but they have no substance as a quality furnishing and are prone to early failure. These same shutters are sold by Home Depot and WallMart in the US at circa \$7.50 sq ft! Here in Australia Basswood Shutters retail around \$350.00 m2.

This is a picture of a painted Basswood 90mm profile blade. We have sanded back the paint to show the base material. This Basswood is a waste-wood timber sold to Shutter manufacturers as low grade timber off cuts and strip lengths. The timber derives from Southern Russia and Northern China. The lumber is processed into small chip blocks and then run through a combing machine as random pieces. Most defects are removed in the processing. The wood chips are then gluelam and autoclaved, then moulded and sanded. The profiles are then filled if any further defects are noted and painted with synthetic paints.



Glulam Finger joint waste-wood chip Basswood SRuS Blade pivot Boss compared to China

Shutters R Us manufacture our shutters from Canadian Western Red (<http://trees.stanford.edu/ENCYC/THUpli.htm>). The machined profiles are hand picked according to the grain and natural timber colour of each and every piece.... It is a labour of love we say. ...but we do not paint our Cedar Shutters....please read on.....

Sadly the Australian market and most of the developed markets elsewhere have been inundated by the cheap Chinese mass produced shutter suppliers selling through brokers and then on to resellers.

There are many trade names being promoted which need to be researched thoroughly to be better informed as to what is being offered. Basswood and Poplar are the mainstays on offer and both painted varieties are machined from waste wood sourced from Southern Russia and Northern China. There are other varieties and machining processes used including laminating thin veneers together and applying a good grade wood surface to the 'seen faces'. The paints used are mostly water based and they do produce a fine surface finish. Paint adhesion cannot be guaranteed because the timber (organic) will and must expand and contract as influenced by humidity, airconditioning seasonal changes and degree of solar influence especially as shutters are usually positioned close to windows.

Synthetic paint applied to an organic product such as timber shutters will not remain stable and as new condition over the period of the shutter life expectancy. That is, subject to the supplier choosing select grade timbers which have been seasoned according to the correct standards, this real wood must breathe and will also take on minute amounts of moisture as well as possible certain shrinkages.

The warranties offered vary and from our experience we have found the local warranties of the reseller differ from that promoted by the Chinese manufacturer.



Basswood frame 25mm and 19mm thick



We are Australian based, owned and managed and have been making shutters since the late 90's. We are the holders of International patents and we also export our technology as well as sell our shutters into the European and Luxury Asian market. Early in our research we indeed experimented with many types of paints and documented all testing as we have done throughout our product development and patent designing. In mid 2006 we had the applied paints re tested for adhesion, colour stay and gloss factoring and surface integrity. A vast majority of the surface integrity scores were low and this resulted in us withdrawing wood surface costings from the market.

Discreet mico cracking will become apparent on the surface in time, depending on the conditions of atmosphere and solar effect. It will happen, it will be when? (Our minimum Aluminium surface coat thickness is 120 microns with 7 year performance test score rating.)

The Company's warranties are very extensive and it is important to us and our customers that we maintain the highest integrity we are known for.

Bearing in mind that Plantation Shutters are most likely located internally within a window opening these shutters are exposed to harsh UV solar heat gain/loss and light intensities. The paint application (usually of Automotive quality or formulated for wood) is not compatible with these effects. The visible evidence (over varying lengths of time depending on conditions) maybe microscopic de-laminations, lineal cracking or crazing.

Please don't consider the cheap Basswoods or other waste wood timbers being imported from China, we have done a great deal of research on these products which have only succeeded in confusing buyers and devalued the market.

There is a good Company on the central coast that will paint Cedar but naturally their warranties are very restrictive for similar reasons as mentioned above. We don't see the point in offering low performance warranties for such high investment items that one would expect should last a very long time in pristine condition.