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*Look In ... Look Out ...*

*Look Good!*

## The Wood used at Southwest Shutters

Wood is the most preferred material for shutters, and the most superior of shutter woods is American basswood (*Tilia americana*). This is because basswood is among the straightest of hardwoods, and is both strong and lightweight. Basswood also provides a uniform texture and indistinct grain, which makes it ideal for gluing, sanding, staining, and providing a smooth finish. The wood dries with fairly little distortion, retaining good dimensional stability.

And best of all, basswood is a renewable resource, while most synthetics are manufactured from nonrenewable resources.



The American basswood tree (also called American linden) grows to an average of 65 feet and is native to eastern North America, but can be found as far southwest as northern Texas.

With careful forest management, basswood is responsibly harvested, balancing growth with removal so that each year, the U.S. grows about twice as much hardwood as it harvests.

All wood used in Southwest Shutters' main product line, Shutter Productions, is #1 and select or better grades of American basswood in accordance with the National Hardwood Lumber Association.