





How to Make Veneer Transcript









Shot 4 November 2018, Length 5:38

Theme: *Made from only the highest quality logs, veneer is thin sheets of wood peeled or thinly sliced. These sheets of wood are used to surface panels, doors, furniture, and other products to provide a high-quality finish to lower cost products. Veneer in the Lake States is made from many species but most commonly sugar maple. Other species include black cherry, yellow birch, paper birch, red oak, and other quality hardwoods and softwoods.*

Major Points

- Veneer is a very thin sheet of solid wood from high quality logs.
- Veneer can be "peeled" or "sliced" from logs, two different technologies. The video shows "peeling".
- Raw veneer is wet and needs to be put through driers. It is then wound into large rolls.
- When ready, the rolls are unwound and sent to light tables for inspection and grading.
- Veneer that meets customer specifications is sorted, cut, stacked, and labelled for delivery.
- Veneer is glued to a less expensive wood base and then made into panels, furniture, doors, and other materials.
- The wood base might be oriented-strand board, particleboard, or other materials.
- The end products are much less expensive than similar products made of solid wood.
- Veneers can be made from non-wood materials, too, usually a plastic, petroleum-based product,
- If you look around the classroom, you'll products made with veneer, such as desks, tables, doors, and cupboards.

VIDEO	AUDIO
	<p>Hi. Welcome to BeLEAF It or Not! Today, we're gonna talk about a forest product called veneer. It comes from real high-quality trees. Now, this is not a really high-quality tree. But to give you a brief of what we might be talking about, or what we will be talking about, is we'll take the high-quality trees and we peel off these thin sheets of wood and that's veneer. So, stay tuned. And we'll let you know how this happens in the Lake States.</p>
<p>OPEN</p>	
	<p>G: Oooh. Yeah. B: Hey Georgia! G: Yeah? B: Sorry. Check out this piano. G: It's absolutely . . . yeah . . . it's wood grain and the color. It's really nice. B: Yeah, what do you suppose something like this might cost? G: Well, it might be less than you think because it's made with veneer. B: Well, let's talk about that.</p>
	<p>B: This is a little piece of veneer. You can see that it's very thin. And, you can see light shines through it, too. G: And you can also see that there are no imperfections or impurities in the wood grain itself. B: Now, manufacturers will take this high-quality veneer and glue it on top of a lower quality board. G: Yeah, and so this is the veneer on the surface.</p>

	<p>B: That's right. And so they can make expensive-looking furniture that really doesn't cost that much.</p> <p>G: Which is great for a family on a tight budget!</p>
	<p>B: So, how do you suppose veneer is made?</p> <p>G: Well that happens to be a really in interesting process. Let's visit a mill to find out!</p> <p>B: Cool. Let's go!</p>
	<p>G: Making veneer begins with the purchase of high-quality logs. A mill needs to maintain an inventory of these logs from different species of trees.</p> <p>B: At this mill, most of the veneer is made from sugar maple. But they also make veneer from yellow birch, paper birch, black cherry, and sometimes other species.</p> <p>G: Well Bill, let's take a look inside and see what happens.</p> <p>B: Cool. Yeah. OK!</p>
	<p>G: When the logs enter the mill, they have to have the bark removed.</p> <p>B: Also, logs are not perfect cylinders. So, the outer parts are "shaved" off so that both ends of the log are the same diameter.</p>
	<p>G: Then, the clean logs are mounted here with both ends secured. The machine spins the logs at high speed. Veneer is peeled-off. Sort of like unrolling a roll of paper towels.</p>
	<p>B: Take a look at this long sheet of veneer moving along the conveyor. That's pretty wild. Who woulda thought that you could do that to a log?</p>
	<p>G: From here, the sheets of veneer are dried in this big machine. There's a lot of moisture in green logs and veneer needs to be dry in order to glue it onto another board.</p>
	<p>B: From the dryer, the veneer is cut to sizes that a customer needs. Most veneer mills will cut to order, but there are also a bunch of standard sizes, too.</p> <p>G: Each sheet of veneer must be inspected on these light tables. The mill wants each sheet to be as perfect as possible!</p>
	<p>B: Finally, the order is stacked, strapped, put on a pallet and labelled for shipping.</p>



G: So, this veneer can be shipped across the United States or around the world. And, so that's how veneer is made.
B: That's right Georgia. In fact, if you're sitting in a desk in a classroom right now, the top of that desk might be a veneer.
G: Yeah, although, it might not be made of wood.
B: That's true. If you're interested in more forest products, or about other forestry topics, join us in another episode of . . .
G: BeLEAF It or Not!
B: And don't forget to become a subscriber and if you have a comment, leave it in the comment section.
G: Thank you for joining us.
B? You betcha.

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