

Technical Bulletin - Finishing vs Natural Weathering

Color and Grain Variation

Color and Grain Variation is typical of materials created by nature and recognized as part of the beauty that sets natural products apart from manufactured products. This is particularly true where wood products are concerned though some species have more or less color variation than others. This should always be considered when looking at wood samples as Iron Woods are supplied mixed grain and are not sorted for color. Some consistency in color can be achieved through either staining wood or allowing wood to weather or grey out naturally.



Example - Ipe Color and Grain Variation



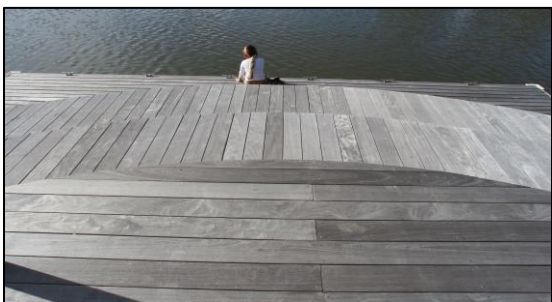
Example – Ipe After Oil Application



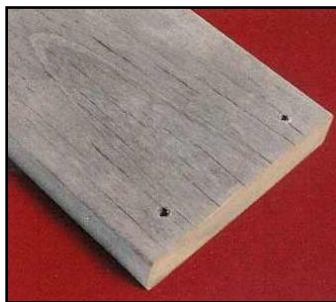
Example – Red Balau After Oil Application

Natural Weathering

Left unfinished or over time without cleaning and refinishing, Iron Woods® will weather naturally to a silver grey patina.



Example – Ipe Grain and Color Variation After Weathering



A first coat on all faces prior to installation with an oil or water based finish is not necessary but recommended even if you intend to let the deck weather. Application of even an inexpensive oil based finish slows moisture absorption and release during seasonal moisture transitions, reduces surface checking and improves stability during the initial acclimation process. This can significantly improve project outcome if you are installing air dried decking in arid dry conditions and direct sunlight. It is important to remember that you can apply water based finishes over oil based finishes but you cannot apply oil based finishes over water based finishes so make sure you take this into consideration when selecting finishes.