| Hardwood versus Softwood comparison chart |
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|  | **Hardwood** | **Softwood** |
| **Definition** | Comes from **angiosperm** **trees**. Has **vessel elements** that transport water throughout the wood; under a microscope, these elements appear as **pores**. | Comes from [**gymnosperm**](https://www.diffen.com/difference/Angiosperm_vs_Gymnosperm) **trees**. When viewed under a microscope, softwoods have **no visible pores**. |
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| **Uses** | Hardwoods are more likely to be found in **things that** **need to last**. | Softwoods have **a wide range of applications**. |
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| **Density** | **higher density** | **lower density** |
|  |  |  |
| **Cost** | **more expensive**. | **less expensive**. |
|  |  |  |
| **Growth** | **slower growth rate** | **faster rate of growth** |
|  |  |  |
| **Shedding of leaves** | Hardwoods **shed their leaves** over a period of time in **autumn** and **winter**. | Softwoods **tend to keep** their needles throughout the year. |
|  |  |  |
| **Fire Resistance** | **More** | **Poor**  |