KAGOSHIMA JAPAN

Kagoshima Prefecture's Timber and Timber Products

Nagashima
Komenotsu Port
Izumi City
Kumamoto Prefecture
Mt. Kirishima
Miyazaki Prefecture
Port of Sendai
Satsuma-sendai City
Kagoshima Prefecture
Kushikino New Port
Ichikikushikino City
Kagoshima City
East China Sea
Sakurajima
Kagoshima Port
Shibushi City
Shibushi Port
Cape Noma
Kagoshima Bay
Satsuma Peninsula
Shibushi Bay
Cape Toi
Osumi Peninsula
Mt. Kaimon
Cape Sata
Osumi Strait
Osumi Islands
Tanegashima
Mt. Miyanoura
Yakushima

Timber-exporting ports in Kagoshima Prefecture

In Kagoshima Prefecture, we are working to produce high quality timber products by drawing on the characteristics of the timber produced here.

Kagoshima Prefecture Wood Export Promotion Council

どんどん 鹿児島

Kagoshima Prefecture is a Japanese wood production area.

Kagoshima Prefecture is located in the southwestern part of Japan and is a base for timber export.
In particular, Shibushi Port boasts Japan's largest timber exports by volume, with large amounts of cryptomeria (sugi) and Japanese cypress (hinoki), two of Japan's best-known woods, exported from here.
From a desire to have as many people as possible use Kagoshima Prefecture sugi and hinoki wood, this pamphlet outlines their characteristics and examples of how they are used, as well as traditional Japanese architectural construction methods.

Cryptomeria (Cryptomeria japonica)

Distribution

Found throughout Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, this is one of Japan's most notable trees. Recently, there are fewer and fewer natural-growing trees, with most of the cryptomeria in Japan being in plantation forests.

Characteristics

Colors differ between the sapwood and the heartwood, with the heartwood ranging from peach to dark reddish-brown, while the sapwood is yellow-white. The grain is beautiful, and it is often used for things like floors or tables surfaces.
Its air-dried specific gravity is between 0.30 and 0.45 g/cm^3, and it is considered a fairly soft and pliable wood among Japanese conifers, but this gives it the advantage of being easily worked.
It has a distinct fragrance.

Grain

Uses

Building wood (pillars, floors, etc.), ceiling panels, furniture, packaging, barrels, wooden clogs, disposal chopsticks, boatbuilding, and many other varied uses.

Japanese Cypress (Chamaecyparis obtusa)

Distribution

It's distributed over south of the Honshuu central part, Shikoku and Kyushu and, along with a cedar, is one of the Japanese representative tree classes.

Characteristics

The heartwood is a light red, while the sapwood is almost white. The rings are faint. Its air-dried specific gravity is between 0.34 and 0.54 g/cm^3, making it fairly soft and pliable. When processed, it produces a beautiful sheen, and it also has a unique fragrance, increasing its value as timber.
The heartwood is very resistant to aging, and can withstand damp environments for many years.

Grain

Uses

As a high-class wood with superior characteristics, it is used in building materials, furniture, carving (Buddhist statues, etc.), bathtubs, buckets, and many other varied uses. It is a vital wood for building temples and shrines.

Examples of Timber Use

Uses in interior design

It is used for walls, floors, ceilings, and so on indoors.
The wood's fragrance is relaxing. The wooden floors are also gentle on the skin, and provide a comfortable walking surface and a cushioning quality.
The wood helps control humidity, creating comfortable spaces.

Housing

Hospitals

Retirement homes

Sales facilities

Uses in exterior design

It is used for exterior walls, decks, fences, and more.
Compared to inorganic metal and concrete, wood provides a warm image to its surroundings.
Wood is often considered susceptible to rot, but by treating it chemically, it can be used for a long period of time.

Fence of the housing

Wood decks at nurseries

Examples of Timber Use

Uses as furniture

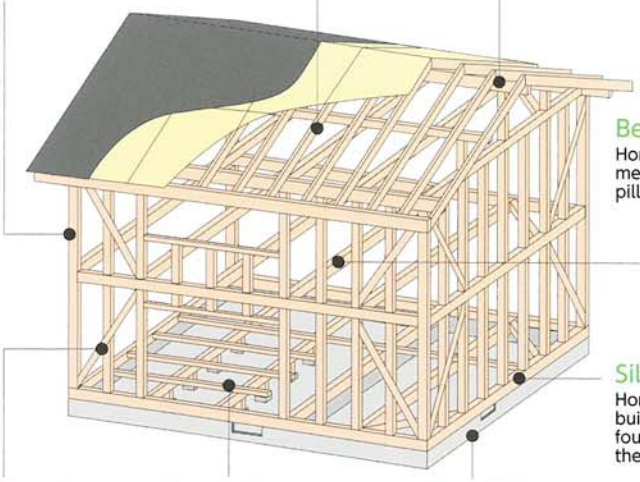
It is used in furniture such as tables, chairs, and shelves.
Wood feels good to the touch and has warmth, making it relaxing.
In South Korea, hinoki furniture, with its unique fragrance, is increasingly popular.

Storage cases in kindergartens

Tables in retirement homes

Wood-framed construction: Japan's traditional construction method

Wood-framed construction is the most common construction method in Japan for wooden houses, and is characterized by the construction of frames through pillars, beams, cross-bracing, and so on.
Wood-framed construction has many advantages, including the freedom for room layouts and the ease of additions and renovations. In addition, by exposing the beams and pillars inside the house, it is possible to use them as design elements.



Central pillars
These are placed at the four corners of the building, and rise up through the first and second floors.

Rafters
These directly support the underside of the roof.

Ridgepole
The horizontal beam at the apex of the roof.

Beams
Horizontal load-bearing members that hold the pillars in place.

Sill
Horizontal members built on top of the foundations to hold the pillars in place.

Cross-bracing
Diagonal members inserted in spaces created by pillars and beams.

Floor joists
Horizontal members that directly support the floorboards or the floor under-layer.

Foundation
Concrete over the ground to support the weight of the building.

※Kagoshima Prefecture Wood Export Supporter name

Contact Us

Kagoshima Prefecture Wood Export Promotion Council
(Department of Environment and Forestry Affairs, Kagoshima Wood Promotion Division)
10-1 Kamoike-shinmachi, Kagoshima City 890-8577
TEL 099-286-3366 FAX 099-286-5638