

# TOXIC WOODS

Sculptors working with wood should be aware of the toxic properties of many wood species. This listing of toxic woods was compiled by Robert Woodcock, R.N., B.S.N., C.E.N., and is reprinted with permission from *Art Hazards News*, Vol. 13, No. 5.

WOOD	Reaction	Site	Potency	Source	Incidence
Bald Cypress	S	R	+	D	R
Balsam Fir	S	E, S	+	LB	C
Beech	S,C	E, S, R	++	LB, D	C
Birch	S	R	++	W, D	C
Black Locust	I, N	E, S	+++	LB	C
Blackwood	S	E, S	++	D, W	C
Boxwood	S	E, S	++	D, W	C
Cashew	S	E, S	+	D, W	R
Cocobolo	I, S	E, S, R	+++	D, W	C
Dahoma	I	E, S	++	D, W	C
Ebony	I, S	E, S	++	D, W	C
Elm	I	E, S	+	D	R
Goncalo Alves	S	E, S	++	D, W	R
Greenheart (Surinam)	S	E, S	+++	D, W	C
Hemlock	C	R	?	D	U
Iroko	I, S, P	E, S, R	+++	D, W	C
Mahogany (Swietenia)	S, P	S, R	+	D	U
Mansonina	I, S, N	E, S	+++ +	D, W D	C
Maple (C. Corticale mold)	S, P	R	+++	D	C
Mimosa	N		?	LB	U
Myrtle	S	R	++	LB, D	C
Oak	S C	E, S	++ ?	LB, D D	R U
Obeche	I, S	E, S, R	+++	D, W	C
Oleander	DT	N, C	++++	D, W, LB	C
Olivewood	I, S	E, S, R	+++	D, W	C
Opepe	S	R	+	D	R
Padauk	S	E, S, N	+	D, W	R
Pau Ferro	S	E, S	+	D, W	R
Peroba Rosa	I	R, N	++	D, W	U
Purpleheart		N	++	D, W	C
Quebracho	I C	R, N	++ ?	D, LB D	C U
Redwood	S, P C	R, E, S	++ ?	D D	R U
Rosewoods	I, S	R, E, S	++++	D, W	C
Satinwood	I	R, E, S	+++	D, W	C
Sassafras	S DT C	R N	++ + ?	D D, W, LB D	R R U
Sequoia	I	R	+	D	R
Snakewood	I	R	++	D, W	R
Spruce	S	R	+	D, W	R
Walnut, Black	S	E, S	++	D, S	C
Wenge	S	R, E, S	++	D, W	C
Willow	S	R, N	+	D, W, LB	U
Western Red Cedar	S	R	+++	D, LB	C
Teak	S, P	E, S, R	++	D	C
Yew	I DT	E, S N, C	++ ++++	D D, W	C C
Zebrawood	S	E, S	++	D, W	

  

Reaction	Site	Source	Incidence
I - irritant S - Sensitizer C - nasopharyngeal cancer P - pneumonitis, alveolitis (hypersensitivity pneumonia) DT - direct toxin N - nausea, malaise	S - skin E - eyes R - respiratory C - cardiac N - nose	D - dust W - wood LB - leaves, bark	R - rare C - common U - uncommon

## References:

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