

# Approved Materials for the Wood Shop:

Certain materials are limited by processes that make them toxic. Below the approved materials is a list of banned materials. Please review this list before purchasing materials. If you need assistance in sourcing these materials please refer to the preferred vendor list and/or consult shop staff. If you would like to submit a material for approval please contact [makerspacewoodshop@gatewaycc.edu](mailto:makerspacewoodshop@gatewaycc.edu) and send along the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS or SDS) of the material you wish to be approved, as well as how you intend to use it (ie. what tools and processes you would like to use the material in).

**In general, purchased material should be kiln dried, unsealed, untreated, unpainted, formaldehyde free, and be processed in a “raw” and “clean” format.**

## Helpful links

The Wood Database: <https://www.wood-database.com/>

Wood Allergies and Toxicity: <https://www.wood-database.com/wood-articles/wood-allergies-and-toxicity/>

## Preferred Vendors

Woodworkers Source \*wood purchased from Woodworkers source is formaldehyde free\*

Ironwood Mills

Peterman Lumber

## Allowed Engineered Wood:

Birch Plywood

MDF (Formaldehyde free)

Masonite

Cork

## Allowed Softwoods:

Pine

Spruce

Douglas Fir

## Allowed Hardwoods:

*The following are mild irritants and should be used with a dust mask*

Basswood

Cherry

Elm

Oak

Mahogany

Maple

Walnut

Alder

Ash

Balsa

Bamboo

Beech

Ebony

Ebony

Poplar

Purpleheart

Mahogany

Maple

Mesquite

Cedar: While there are some safe varieties many cedars are toxic and can cause serious respiratory problems. Specific Cedars must be approved by staff. Please reference the linked toxicity guide.

## Other:

\*Art Resin: Art Resin may be applied in the woodshop to fill certain holes in wood or for its aesthetic qualities. It should not be used on machine tools and should be sanded with a palm sander attached to a hepa vacuum while wearing a dust mask. Any other usage of the material would need to be approved by the woodshop manager.

**We will not mill any resin on the ShopBot CNC Router.**

## Banned Materials

### Foam:

Foams are banned for use in the woodshop. We will not cut foam on the ShopBot CNC Router.

### Wax:

Wax (with the exception of non-toxic finishing wax) is banned for use in the woodshop.

### Plastics:

Plastics should be used in the rapid prototyping area. They are not to be used in the woodshop. The only exception being to cut down cast acrylic to laser cutter dimensions. For this, we will use a plastics blade and cut the material down to size on the table saw. We will not cut plastics on the ShopBot CNC Router

### Wood:

MDF containing formaldehyde  
Particle Board

### Banned Hardwoods:

Bubinga	Juniper	Teak
Cocobolo	Mulga	Yew
Greenheart	Pau Ferro	Zebrawood
Ironwood	Rosewood	

Cedar: While there are some safe varieties many cedars are toxic and can cause serious respiratory problems. Specific Cedars must be approved by staff.

### Miscellaneous:

Fiberglass  
Concrete  
Carbon Fiber  
Plaster  
Rubber

Corian: Depending on the manufacturer the metal in this machine can damage the tools in the shop. This material can be milled on the CNC if the manufacturer is verified and the member purchases a specialized bit and tests the feeds and speeds for safe usage.

