

GUIDE TO CONSTRUCTION PLYWOOD



THOMES LTD.
NORTH AMERICA



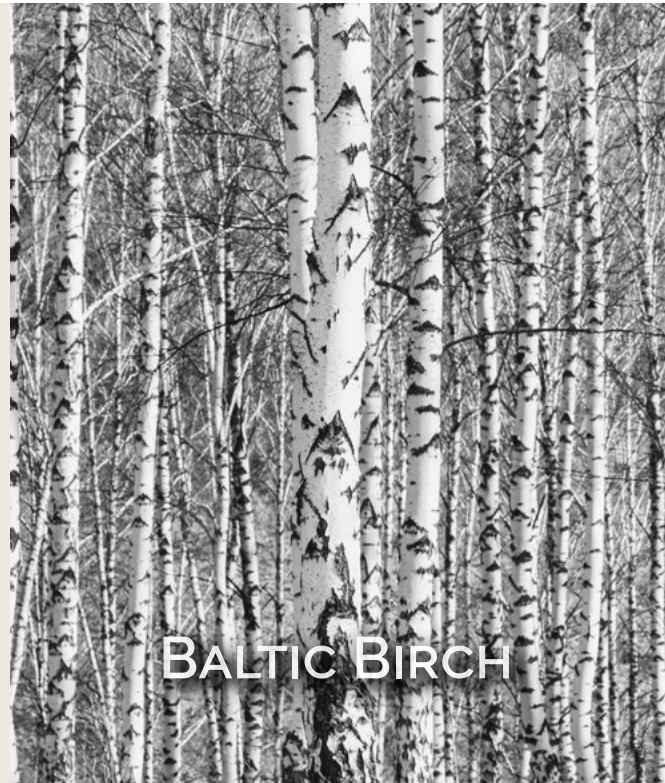
Compared to other types of plywood, Baltic birch plywood offers greater strength, durability, and uniformity in appearance. It's made from birch veneers of equal thickness bonded together, which creates a stable, void-free piece of plywood. This makes it a popular choice for construction plywood, especially for cabinets, furniture, and other items where aesthetics are important. Lower grades of Baltic birch plywood, which may contain defects and unsightly knots or patches, are still valued for their strength in structural projects like flooring and scaffolding.

Baltic birch is harvested from the Baltic Sea area, where it takes its name. Today, Baltic birch plywood is trusted in a wide range of applications all over the world. It's a cost-effective, sustainable choice when strength, stability, and/or a fine finish are required. Learn more about the applications and grades of Thomes Ltd. North America's Baltic birch plywood products.

THOMES LTD. NORTH AMERICA PLYWOOD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Baltic birch plywood finds many applications in the construction industry because of its unique qualities:

- » High impact and shock resistance
- » Warping and bowing resistance
- » Excellent strength-to-weight ratio
- » Dimensional stability
- » A variety of options for size, shape, treatment, and more
- » Resistant to many types of chemicals
- » Easy to clean and reuse



Specific treatments can improve fire resistance, moisture resistance, chemical resistance, and more. Baltic birch plywood is lightweight and can be easily manufactured in various sizes and thicknesses to meet the needs of the application. This allows for custom solutions in even the most unusual circumstances and environments.

Because Baltic birch is a renewable resource that produces low volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, it's a great fit for sustainable building concepts and for helping builders save money and improve their own environmentally-friendly profile. Thomes Ltd. North America sources birch from fully traceable, sustainably managed forests in the Baltic Sea region.

These are some common uses for Baltic birch plywood.

CONCRETE FORMS

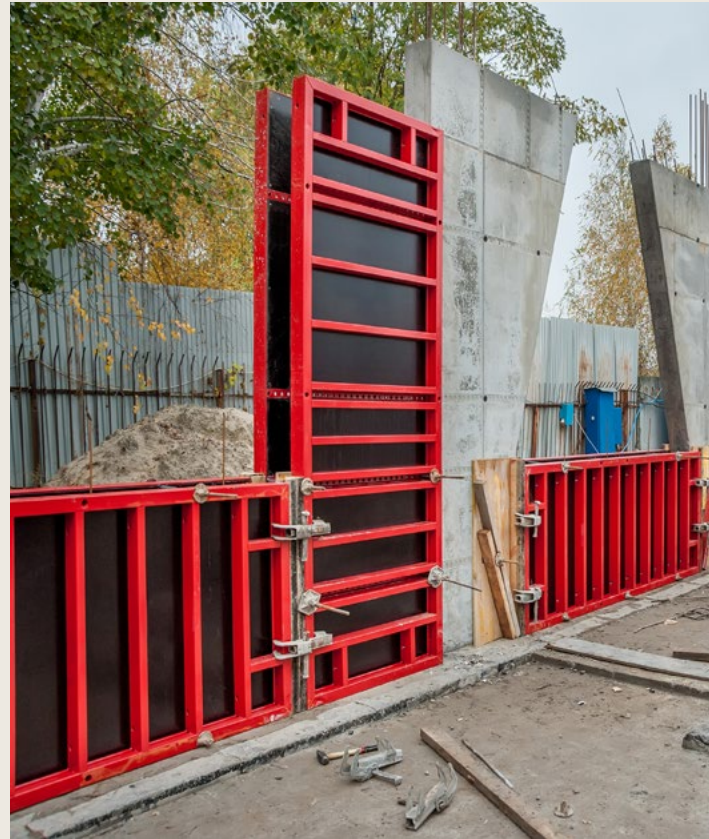
We use phenolic-coated Baltic birch plywood for concrete forms, where concrete is poured and hardened into the desired shape and dimensions. The phenolic film won't stick to concrete, and the concrete forming panels can be treated with a variety of finishes to create the desired texture or pattern. Because it is imperative that the concrete sets in the right shape, the plywood used for concrete forms must have good dimensional stability and be sturdy enough that it doesn't bend, crack, or leak.

Specially-made shuttering plywood, with its high density and thickness, is for heavy-duty concrete pouring. Our Baltic birch plywood has been proven to meet the demands of these harsh environments and applications.

SAFETY PLANKS AND SCAFFOLDING

OSHA outlines the regulations for plywood scaffolding, which includes the ability of each scaffolding component to hold at least four times the expected load. This scaffolding must be designed by a qualified person, then constructed and loaded according to that design.

Baltic birch plywood has the strength and durability to be used to cover gaps where objects stick up through the platform and to cover large scaffolding areas with skip planking. It's also used for foundation holes to keep walls from collapsing in.



WALL PANELS

Baltic birch is not only durable, but has an attractive surface finish making it a great option for wall paneling in architectural projects. Baltic birch (in grades BB to B) has a smooth surface finish and can be treated with a variety of coating options to increase their resistance to elements such as moisture and fire.

While baltic birch can be used in more standard wall paneling for houses, they're also used in custom-designed buildings such as museums, outdoor libraries, and even airports. It is a great choice due to its durability, high-strength, and aesthetic qualities.



OTHER APPLICATIONS

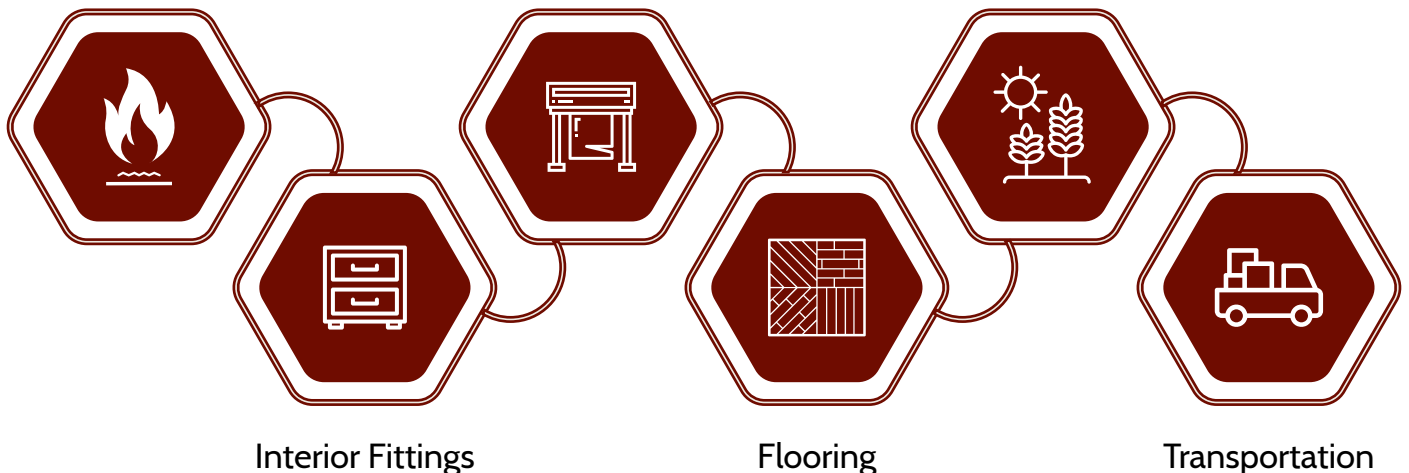
Because of its available overlay options, easy processing, and special treatment options, Baltic birch construction plywood also benefits the following industries and applications:

Liquid Natural Gas
(LNG)

Tanker Building

Die Cutting

Farming



CONSIDERATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION PLYWOOD

Baltic birch construction plywood is graded based on the quality of the outer layers of the plywood, and it follows a different grading system than other types of plywood, which typically follow ANSI grading standards. For Baltic birch, the front and back veneers can be of different grades. For example, a B/BB plywood would have one Grade B face and one Grade BB face. Here's what each grade means:

GRADE B:

Meant for a natural-looking finish with a light, even color, Grade B Baltic birch plywood has zero patches. Small pin knots and occasional brown streaks are permitted. This is the highest quality decorative grade, commonly used for fine furniture, skateboards, dollhouses, and wall panels.

GRADE BB:

In Grade BB Baltic birch, big knots and other defects are replaced with round veneer patches before bonding. The face has a light, even color throughout. This grade is used for many of the same applications as Grade B.

GRADE CP:

Grade CP Baltic birch plywood has more defects and streaking. Even small hairline splits are permitted, and replacement patches might not be the same color as the face veneer. This is a structural grade, used for parquet boards, laminating, scaffolding, vehicle sheathing, and some furniture.



GRADE C:

This is utility-grade plywood, used when appearance is not important. It can have major splits and other defects. Grade C is another structural grade used for packing and crating, construction, and interior furniture elements that won't be visible when the piece is complete.



Aside from the grade, it's important to consider the thickness of the construction plywood. Thickness starts at 3-ply, or 3 mm, and ranges up to 40 mm. A standard choice for walls is 12 mm (1/2 inch) plywood, while flooring typically requires 15 mm plywood. The higher the load, the thicker the plywood needs to be. Projects that require more flexibility benefit from thinner plywood sheets.

BALTIC BIRCH PLYWOOD FOR CONSTRUCTION FROM THOMES LTD. NORTH AMERICA

For decades, Thomes Ltd. North America has provided high-quality plywood solutions for our clients in the construction, automotive, aircraft, and furniture-making industries. With conventional press technologies and advanced coatings, our Baltic birch products achieve superior quality results every time. Proudly based in Ontario, Canada, our team of client care specialists work to ensure our products meet your exact needs.

Contact us to learn more about our history of innovation and how we can help you with your Baltic birch plywood needs.

ABOUT THOMES

Our MISSION is Supply Chain Oriented, to find you the best option to solve your production requirements.

When Thomes Ltd. North America was founded in 1963, we started with decades of experience in the production of Birch Plywood, made in Finland. The history of Birch Plywood began in the decade of the 1800s when mechanization of the log peeling process was invented. Since 1963, Thomes Ltd. North America and its partner manufacturers have revolutionized the North American market by developing what is still defined as state-of-the-art Baltic Birch plywood. It uses conventional press technologies and innovative advanced coatings to achieve superior product results every time. By combining redefined process flows with innovative product designs and standards Thomes Ltd. North America did not become yet another wholesale supplier, but rather a product solutions innovator.



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